

President's Corner Progress Report

by Marcia Balestri

My first President's Corner a year ago summarized the results from a survey passed out at last year's conference and discussed some approaches to addressing the issues that were raised. I thought I might give you a progress report on some of our accomplishments this past year and describe several ongoing efforts to deal with other suggestions.

I am most happy to report that several people stepped up to fill the vacancies on our Board. Sarel Cousins is our new Membership Chair, and Russ Kovach has agreed to take over the Development/Publicity Chair. Helen Horrocks volunteered to be our administrative "guru," taking over a lot of tasks that were spread out among board members since we eliminated the Executive Secretary role. Dave Ziolkowski has agreed to be our new Research Chair, when Gwen Brewer stepped down this year after seven years of first-rate service.

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The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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PHOTO OP: ATLAS PICTURE CONTEST

The MOS Atlas Committee is launching a contest to select photos to illustrate the new 2002-2006 Atlas. The previous Atlas, published in 1996, had line drawings of the birds. The new Atlas, to be published by the Johns Hopkins University Press, will use a color photograph for each of the breeding birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Winning photographs will carry a credit line in the Atlas.



From left to right: Mark Hoffman, Ed Boyd, Bill Hubick, and Mike Burchette demonstrate how it's done. Not pictured is Hans Holbrook, who took this snapshot of the gang photographing the Lark Sparrow found by Mark on Assateague Island Oct 22, 2006.

CONTEST RULES

Each contestant may **enter only one photograph per breeding bird**. With approximately 209 breeding birds in MD/DC, there is ample opportunity to submit multiple photographs. You can get a list of the breeding birds in the *Field List of the Birds of MD* (Yellow Book) 1996, or by accessing the summary data at the USGS Patuxent web page through the link to the Breeding Bird Atlas on the MOS web site. Winning photos will be selected on the basis of originality, technical execution, and potential for helping readers gain an appreciation of the spirit of the bird. All birds photographed for this contest must be (or have been) alive and living in the wild in Maryland.

Who is eligible? The contest is open to all Maryland and DC residents and to members of the Maryland Ornithological Society. A panel of editors will choose the winners. In

the event of a tie for any given bird, preference will be given to a photographer who is a member of the Maryland Ornithological Society.

When to submit. The deadline is **January 31, 2008**.

Use of images. By entering a photograph in the contest, you grant MOS and Johns Hopkins University Press (JHUP) the right to use and publish your photos in the Atlas without compensation. You also grant MOS and JHUP the right to use and publish your legal name online and in print, or any other media, in connection with the contest and agree that any image submitted may be used by the MOS and JHUP for marketing and promotional purposes, including exhibitions and print and digital media directly related to the Atlas, without compensation.

(Photo Op continues on page 2)

PHOTO OP (continued from page 1)

How to submit. All photographs must be submitted in high resolution digital format—**300 dpi JPEG format, no smaller than 5" x 7"**. Digital files must be submitted on compact disc, **one image per CD**. The disc itself must be clearly marked **only** with the species of bird. No signature, stamp, date, or any other identifying mark is allowed anywhere on the photograph. **A separate completed entry document (on a sheet of paper or a card) stating the name of the photographer, e-mail address, mailing address, phone number, location of image, date of photograph, description (5-10 words), and equipment used must accompany each disc.** MOS will not return CDs. Address all questions and entries to me 2719 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21218, 410-235-4001.

—Karen Morley

The Maryland Yellowthroat
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Ornithological Society, Inc.

Editor: Lydia Schindler
lydiaschindler@verizon.net
301-977-5252

Designer: Suzanne Probst
msprobst2@verizon.net
410-992-3489

Calendar Editor: Andy Martin
apmartin2@comcast.net
301-294-4805

Chapter Chatter: Jean Wheeler
jswheeler44@msn.com

Proofreader: Ann Weeks
annweeks@erols.com

Mailing list: Helen Horrocks
hlh_37@yahoo.com
301-831-6315

MOS web site: <http://www.mdbirds.org>

Webmaster: Taylor McLean
taylormcl@comcast.net

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Copy may be mailed or e-mailed to Lydia Schindler by September 20, 2007 for the November/December 2007 issue.

*Illustrations pages 1 and 10 © M. Suzanne Probst.
Photograph page 1 © Hans Holbrook.
Photographs page 17 © George Jett.*

CONFERENCE 2007

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY, WICOMOCO COUNTY

Our 2007 conference at Salisbury University was smaller, and hotter, than usual. But with 193 people attending, there was time to socialize with everyone. Most of the field trips were small, too, ensuring people an exceptional experience with more than usual interaction between leaders—there were 33, all volunteers—and birders. And perhaps the sole benefit of the ongoing drought, the notoriously ferocious mosquitoes of Assateague, etc, were nowhere to be found.

The conference got off to a lively start with Friday afternoon's workshop, "Shorebirds: ID Challenges." Arranged by **Mike Bowen** and presented by **John Bjerke** and **Cyndie Loeper** and Mike, the workshop drew an attendance of more than 60. A lucky 20 people were able to go on the follow-up Bombay Hook NWR trip with John, Cyndie, and Mike on Saturday. The presenters' efforts won rave reviews.

Friday night's keynote speaker, **Scott Weidensaul**, gave an impressive talk on his *Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul*. He came away from his year of travels surprisingly hopeful and upbeat; he found many aspects of the environment to be in better shape now than when Roger Tory Peterson and James Fisher made the original *Wild America* excursion 50 years earlier, in 1953.

Dale Johnson, as usual, did a great job of putting together the Nature Art Exhibit. **Ellen Lawler**, a Tri-County member, displayed her excellent art work in addition to leading a field trip. **Teri Christensen**, who designed our Snowy Egret conference pin, also had artwork on display.

Maryanne Dolan and her cadre of volunteers were much in evidence at the Silent Auction and helping to sell raffle tickets. Thanks to Maryanne's expertise and showmanship, the Silent Auction and Raffle raised over \$1,700 for Salisbury's Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art.



The 2007 MOS pin was designed by Teri Christensen of Tri-County Chapter.

Thanks also go to **Dave and Claire Horvath**, owners of Wild Bird Centers in Columbia and Severna Park, for bringing wonderful birding items from their stores to share with us.

The Research Poster Session organized by **Gwen Brewer** was well received. Several people requested more time; perhaps next year the Posters can start a little earlier. The Wine and Cheese was praised by many as the most lavish ever; Salisbury University did an impressive job. As always, people enjoyed spending time with old and new birding friends throughout the state.

Bob Ringler did his usual excellent job of wrapping up the conference for us on Sunday. The final tally was 161 species. Even with the heat, attendees saw some wonderful birds. Highlights included White-faced Ibis and Wilson's Phalarope at Bombay Hook; immature White Ibis, American Bittern, and two family groups of Black-necked Stilts at Deal Island WMA; Sandwich Terns and a Piping Plover at Chincoteague; Seaside and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows at multiple locations; Common Loon and Gannet off Assateague; Upland Sandpiper at the Salisbury Airport; and a Sandwich Tern on the boat trip to Smith Island.

Finally, thanks to all of the volunteers who made the conference possible.

—Janet Shields
Conference Chair

Sometimes things come out of our mouths just the opposite of what we intended. I made a lot of mistakes at this first conference, but one was a major whooper. I left the impression that Gwen Brewer had abruptly left her position mid-year and Dave Ziolkowski had to step in. This couldn't be further from the truth. While Gwen announced her intention to leave mid-year, she identified the right person to take over and worked throughout the rest of the year, as chair, for a smooth transition. Gwen has served this organization in an exemplary and first-rate fashion for many years, and I apologize to her and to the attendees at the conference for my terrible mistake.

— Marcia Balestri

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

At the annual business meeting Saturday evening, President **Marcia Balestri** presented the following awards:

The **Anne Arundel Bird Club** won the Chapter Achievement Award for the greatest membership growth, with 31 new members for the 2006-2007 year.

Phil Davis received a Valued Service Award, "In appreciation for his extraordinary work as Secretary of the MD/DC Records Committee. The list of accomplishments and improvements in the functioning of the committee could fill pages; all done in his spare time and at his own expense."

Mike Bowen received a Valued Service Award, "In appreciation for his leadership of the Statewide Educational Activities Committee and the development of both the Warbler and the Shorebird Workshops."

Linda Friedland was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation, "In appreciation for her hard work and outstanding effort on the development and presentation of the Warbler Workshop both at the conference and to chapters across the state."

Marcia also recognized "the efforts of our Youth Groups for skillfully representing MOS at the World Series of Birding."

★ The *MOS Knot Just Peeps*: **Nolan O'Brien** (captain), **Christina Brinster**, **Amanda Spears**, and **Jessica White**. This team, students at Queen Anne's and Kent High Schools, coached by **Wayne Bell**, placed sixth in the youth division/grades 9-12, with 154 species. They bested their previous record by 10 species, including finding and identifying a Curlew Sandpiper.

★ The *MOS Ruby-crowned Queenlets*: **Emily Masucci**, (captain), **Jessica Carrick**, **Madeline Masucci**, **Shannon O'Brien**, and **Emily Vooris**, working with coach **George Radcliffe**, found 150 species, to take second place in division B, grades 6-8. These young women attend Centreville Middle School.

★ The *MOS Yellowthroats*, **Matt Hafner** (captain), **Zach Baer**, **Jim Brighton**, and **Bill Hubick** were the big winners in the adult Cape May County category with 184 species. (See page 15.)

President's Corner *(continued from page 1)*

One central theme in the survey was the need for better communication throughout the organization. I am pleased to report that the new MOS listserve is up and running. Howard Lefkowitz has graciously agreed to be our moderator, and if you haven't signed up yet, please do. All members are eligible to be on the listserve. Just go to <http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/mbirds> and follow the instructions.

In addition, I have been trying to visit all of the chapters to get personal input from you. I have managed to visit a few chapters (and had a lot of fun) and will try to hit the rest over the course of this next year.

Another central theme focused around activities that benefit chapters across the state. We have made a lot of progress in this area:

- The Statewide Education Committee has done a great job in providing workshops at our last two annual conferences, and distributing copies of these workshops to the chapters. More are in the works.
- The Conservation Committee has worked tirelessly on several issues of great concern across the state, including the Blackwater housing development, Anacostia Canada Goose overpopulation, and the siting of wind farms.
- The Maryland Birding Trail is now off the ground. Marcia Watson, who is leading this effort, has formed an ad hoc committee to develop a map/guide to birding throughout Maryland.
- Our Membership Committee has been busy assembling and mailing out new member packets.
- I am working with the Delaware Ornithological Society and the Virginia Society of Ornithology to arrange some joint field trips and maybe a joint meeting in the future.

Our Youth Programs Committee has also been busy working to increase youth participation in MOS. We sponsored two excellent youth teams at the 2007 World Series of Birding, the Ruby-crowned Queenlets and the Knot Just Peeps. These youngsters, from Centreville Middle School and Queen Anne's County/Kent Island High Schools, placed second and sixth in their respective divisions, a great accomplishment! Not to be overlooked is the terrific parental support that undergirds these school programs.

Of course, other committees have been working hard this year as well, and thanks to all of you who helped make my first year most enjoyable. Keep those suggestions coming.

The Conservation Connection

by Maureen F. Harvey



MOS Proffers Views on Anacostia Geese

On July 18, Fred Fallon presented the MOS position on the need to control resident Canada Geese along the Anacostia River near Kingman Marsh in DC (see the May-June 2007 *Yellowthroat* for background information). Fred spoke at a public “scoping” held by the National Park Service (NPS), which is working on an environmental assessment plan to manage these troublesome geese. Steve McKindley-Ward of the Anacostia Watershed Society thanked Fred for his testimony and said that Fred was the most effective speaker there. Thank you, Fred!

Energy Policy Act Foregoes Wind Industry Regs

In June, MOS and the Baltimore Bird Club joined with other members of the Maryland Conservation Council in signing a letter to U.S. Representatives John Sarbanes (D-MD) and Wayne Gilchrest (D-MD), both members of the House Natural Resources Committee; the letter supported passing the Energy Policy Reform and Revitalization Act of 2007 (HR 2337) without substantial amendment or deletion of Subtitle D. Introduced by Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV), Subtitle D would have required the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish monitoring and other wildlife standards for wind energy projects, and to certify that industrial wind energy facilities are in compliance with the standards. As D. Dan Boone noted, this provision would put into law what the wind industry and its proponents already profess to support, i.e., the proper siting of facilities in order to avoid impacts, including cumulative impacts, on birds, bats, and other wildlife to the greatest extent practicable based on data gathered during preconstruction surveys.

The MCC letter stated, “Not only would the elimination of Subtitle D be scientifically unwise from a wildlife perspective, but also the amount of energy produced by turbines placed on top of the Appalachian ridges will do little to alleviate our dependence on fossil fuels. Due to the intermittency and seasonality of the winds, industrial wind plants generate the least amount of energy in the summer when the demand for electricity is the highest.”

Appallingly, environmental groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council aligned on this issue with the American Wind Energy Association and Union of Concerned Scientists, which vehemently attacked the wildlife protection provision on grounds that it would effectively shut down the industry. Instead, the House passed an amendment that shifted away from regulations, directing the Interior Department to work with a federal advisory committee to develop “guidance for avoiding or minimizing impacts” on birds and other wildlife. The problem is that regulations can be enforced while guidelines can be ignored.

Federal Agencies Call for Studies on Wind Facilities

As Ajax Eastman and other activists pointed out to the MD Public Service Commission (PSC) in a July 16 filing, two recent developments impact the application by Synergics Wind Energy, LLC, to build a wind power facility in Garrett County. In April, the USFWS issued a Draft Recovery Plan (DRP) for the Indiana Bat. In May, the National Research Council (NRC) released a prepublication copy of a book entitled “Environmental Impacts of Wind-Energy Projects.”

The DRP found that the federally endangered Indiana bat roosts, breeds, and migrates along Backbone Mountain in Garrett Co; as a result, DRP includes Garrett County within the Appalachian Recovery Unit for this species. The NRC determined that wind-energy facilities along forested ridge tops in the eastern part of the country have killed between 15.3 and 41.1 bats/MW/year of installed capacity, as compared to a kill rate of 0.8 to 8.6 bats/MW/year in the west (and it is likely that the figures underrepresent the actual number of fatalities). Both the DRP and NRC call for additional studies on the impacts of wind projects located along potential migration routes. The NRC also noted that, in the eastern U.S., “more birds may be killed at wind-energy facilities on forested ridge tops than in other regions” and specifically mentioned a need to consider impact (habitat disturbance) on the Mourning Warbler, Allegheny Woodrat, and Timber Rattlesnake in the siting of wind-energy facilities in the Mid-Atlantic highlands. It surely is good news that these two federal organizations are concerned about the impacts of putting up huge turbines on Backbone Mountain. We really need those regulations that were left out of the 2007 Energy Bill!

Bird-Friendly Building

Two new publications provide guidance for making buildings bird-friendly, and both should be essential resources for architects, landscape designers, engineers, glass technicians, developers, building managers, city, state, and federal officials, and the general public. Bird safety in buildings is integral to the “green” building movement, and the guidelines suggest ways to retrofit existing buildings. Canada’s “Lights Out Toronto!” Program has issued a 40-page manual entitled “Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines” that can be found at <http://www.toronto.ca/lightsout>. New York City Audubon offers “Bird-Safe Building Guidelines,” which can be obtained in print by e-mailing info@nycaudubon.org or by downloading at <http://www.nycaudubon.org/home/BirdSafeBuildingGuidelines.pdf>



DNR Reports by Glenn Therres:

Forests: Preserving Old Growth for New Generations

When “The Ark” and “Dove” arrived in Maryland in 1633, the land was primarily forested, part of an old-growth ecosystem that extended throughout eastern North America. The Native Americans did clear some of these forests for crops and villages, but not nearly to the extent that the colonists did. Timber, wood products, and firewood made European settlement of North America possible, and by the 1800s much of our forested landscape had disappeared. In the early 1900s, logging for lumber and charcoal removed most of the forests in our mountains.

Today, about 40 percent of the Maryland landscape is again forested, with the higher percentage in the mountains; these second-growth forests support a wide variety of birds and other animals. Plus, not every acre of forest was cleared or logged to begin with. Several remnant patches of old-growth forest remain; Belt Woods is a good example.

To find these old-growth forests in our state, DNR initiated an inventory in 2002. The first step was to settle on a definition of “old growth.” An interdisciplinary team of ecologists, foresters, and park rangers formed DNR’s Old-Growth Committee, and two old-growth forest experts from academia assisted them. After an extensive review of current scientific information on eastern old-growth forests, we arrived at the following definition:

Forests of at least 5 acres with a preponderance of old trees, of which the oldest trees exceed at least 50 percent of the projected maximum attainable age for that species, and that exhibit many of the following characteristics: 1) shade-tolerant species are present in all age/size classes; 2) there are randomly distributed canopy gaps; 3) there is a high degree of structural diversity characterized by multiple growth layers (canopy, understory trees, shrub, herbaceous, ground layers) that reflect a broad spectrum of ages; 4) there is an accumulation of dead wood of varying sizes and stages of decomposition, standing and down, accompanied by decadence in live dominant trees; and 5) pit and mound topography can be observed, if the soil conditions permit. Given the dominant tree species in our forests, most of the older trees need to be 200 years old.

From 2003 to 2006, DNR inventoried DNR lands, and we identified 40 sites statewide as meeting our definition of “old growth.” In total, more than 2,300 acres were identified (and additional old-growth forests will likely be found). More than 1,700 of the designated old-growth acres were found on State Forest lands; the largest tract, more than 770 acres, is within the Big Savage and South Savage Wildlands of Savage River State Forest. However, most of the old-growth stands are smaller than 20 acres. The majority (82 percent) of the identified old-growth stands are co-dominated by mixed oak species; a few are co-dominated by eastern hemlock and pines.

The Old-Growth Committee is now developing guidelines for the conservation of these old-growth forests on DNR lands. The goal is the conservation of old-growth forest ecosystems that are functional, and thus provide a multitude of benefits. Since many of the existing old-growth forests are small, this will be challenging; simply protecting patches of old-growth forest does not result in a functional old-growth ecosystem.

While patches of old-growth forest contain essential elements of an old-growth system, DNR will manage old-growth ecosystems in units larger than the existing old-growth stands. The details of how to accomplish this are being worked out. Certain patches of existing old-growth forest may be too isolated to become functional ecosystems and will be protected as individual remnants.

In addition, DNR recognizes that more old-growth forest is desired, and we are developing strategies to increase the amount of old growth on DNR lands. Of course, we cannot produce it overnight; this will be a long-term proposition. Both the conservation of old-growth and increasing such on DNR lands will be incorporated into our land management plans.

Lastly, we are studying the wildlife values of old-growth forests. We have conducted breeding bird surveys at old-growth sites and second-growth forests; data analysis is now under way. We are also studying the insect communities in old-growth and second-growth forests. Boy, did we catch a lot of insects! It will take some time to identify the thousands of specimens before we can analyze the results. Stay tuned!

Old-growth forests are interesting natural communities that deserve our attention. I am proud to be a part of DNR’s efforts to conserve and increase this precious natural resource for future generations.

PIN CONTEST

MOS Artists! It’s time to start working on your 2008 MOS Conference Pin. The deadline for the Pin Design Contest is **January 15, 2008**. The basic rules are simple: Entrants must be a member of MOS; the design must contain a bird appropriate for the conference site (Harford County) and the phrases “MOS” and “2008.” On the back of each entry the artist shall put name, address, chapter affiliation, and the species represented. The pin can be any shape. Send entries to John Malcolm, 10205 Kindly Court, Montgomery Village, MD 20886. To see all the rules and more tips about designing pins for the contest, visit the MOS web site, or contact John Malcolm at 301-977-5788 or at smudgie@comcast.net.

MINUTES OF THE MOS BOARD MEETING

MARCH 3, 2007

President: Marcia Balestri
Vice-President: Wayne Bell
Treasurer: Emmalyn Holdridge
Secretary: Janet Shields
Past President: Janet Millenson

Atlas: Walter Ellison
Budget: Shiras Guion
Conference: Janet Shields
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Membership: Sarel Cousins
Sanctuary: Brent Byers
Scholarship: Tom Strikwerda
Statewide Education Activities:
 Mike Bowen
World Series of Birding: Matt Hafner

Allegany: *not represented*
Anne Arundel: Linda Baker,
 George Thomas
Baltimore: Brent Byers,
 Taylor McLean
Caroline: *not represented*
Carroll: Maureen Harvey,
 Bob Ringer
Cecil: *not represented*
Frederick: Sarel Cousins,
 Helen Horrocks, Michael Welch
Harford: Thomas Congersky,
 Russell Kovach, Randy Robertson
Howard: Mary-Jo Betts,
 Martha Chestem, Karen Darcy,
 Shiras Guion, Kevin Heffernan,
 Tom Strikwerda, Kate Tufts,
 Martha Waugh, Paul Zucker
Kent: Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin
Montgomery: Michael Bowen,
 David Gray, Judy McCartney,
 Helen Patton
Patuxent: Fred Fallon
Talbot: Wayne Bell
Tri-County: *not represented*
Washington: Shirley Ford,
 Anna Hutzell.

President Marcia Balestri called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM and thanked the Howard Chapter for hosting the meeting at the Howard Conservancy, Woodstock, MD.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Emmalyn Holdridge submitted the treasurer's report. She announced that the \$50,000 from the DNR grant for the Atlas for this year has been received. The Rainforest Challenge was met and Emmalyn has sent the \$3,000 to the Cloud Forest Conservation Project.

President's Remarks:
 Marcia Balestri thanked people for responding to the George DuBois Rainforest Challenge and meeting the goal. She indicated that the challenge will be repeated this year. A new project will be selected as the beneficiary.

CHAPTER REPORTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Atlas: Walter Ellison noted that the most important thing is the field work left to be done. There are still approximately 166 miniroutes for which volunteers are needed. People interested in doing miniroutes should contact Nancy Martin. The committee is working on publications and will be doing a book. It looks like Johns Hopkins University Press will be publishing the Atlas book. The committee is hoping to publish sometime in 2009. Some underwriting must be provided to the publisher so that they can keep the cost in the \$50–\$60 range. The figure mentioned was \$20,000–\$25,000. Janet Millenson remarked that underwriting this type of project is standard to the industry.

Awards: Marcia Balestri recently spoke with John Malcolm. John wishes the board to give him a price for MOS merchandise (Yellowbook, checklist, etc.) reflecting their production costs. John will then determine the final price for the items after adding shipping and handling costs. The board approved a motion allowing John Malcolm to set the price for MOS merchandise.

Budget: Shiras Guion presented the proposed MOS budget for 2007-08. The board voted to approve it.

Conference: Janet Shields announced that the 2007 conference registration forms should be in the mail by early April. The registration forms will also be on the MOS website. There is a signed contract for the 2008 conference. It will be held May 30, 31, & June 1, 2008, in Edgewood, Harford County.

Conservation: Maureen Harvey reported that Janet Millenson and Carol Schreter went to Annapolis and testified before the House Economic Affairs Committee and the Senate Finance Committee in opposition to two bills that would change the Maryland Annotated Code to exempt wind generation facilities from obtaining a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Public Service Commission. National Park Service (NPS) is responding to letters written by MOS and others regarding the need to control resident Canada Geese at Kingman Marsh. There will be a written description of the goose situation on the tidal Anacostia with a few preliminary ideas on how to manage the geese in Anacostia Park and a second document sent out including public feedback. Eventually there will be a public meeting on this issue. See the upcoming *Yellowthroat* for more detailed information.

Investments: Martha Waugh's report shows that the total value of MOS investments as of January 31 is \$1,645,543. However, the market has gone down since that time. Martha reminded us that almost all of our funds are invested for income to fund various committee activities. Income for the fiscal year so far is \$69,139.

Membership: Marcia Balestri introduced Sarel Cousins, who has agreed to be the new Membership chair. Sarel is in touch with Linda Keenan, former chair, coordinating the transition. Marcia said that MOS had a net loss of members this past year. She challenges chapters to set goals and go after new members and retain old ones this year.

Research: Gwen Brewer has talked with Marcia Balestri and we may have a new research chair. Three research proposals have recently been awarded. Total amount spent to date for the 2006-07 fiscal year was \$10,774.

Sanctuary: Brent Byers announced a work weekend at Irish Grove March 14-15. The traditional work weekend at Carey Run will be the weekend of April 28. Brent has talked with Roger Lebbin, Mid-Atlantic Companies, about the Prince George's County sanctuary. It is still on track. They have been busy, but there should be more activity to turn the land over to MOS in the next two months.

Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda received 15 new applications for scholarships plus a carryover from last year. Fifteen of those applications were very strong. Most likely 15 or 16 will be awarded.

Statewide Education Activities: Mike Bowen is working on a shorebird workshop for the MOS Conference in July. It will concentrate on the challenges of very similar species. There will be a field trip to Bombay Hook in conjunction with the workshop.

World Series of Birding: Marcia Balestri talked with Matt Hafner. He put together a form for pledges that will be in the next *Yellowthroat*. MOS will be supporting this team and any money raised will go to the atlas.

Youth Programs: Wayne Bell will explore with George Radcliffe the possibility of offering an MOS workshop on activities that have helped him recruit young people into birding and the organization.

OLD BUSINESS

Manual of Operations: Paul Zucker, Long-range Planning Committee, explained that after the board was restructured the Manual of Operations was redone. One of the things left to do was decide how to describe Executive Secretary in the Manual since currently there is no Executive Secretary, and a description of the new office assistant is needed. There are also brief descriptions needed for the Development, Membership, and the Youth Programs Committees. Any other changes necessary for other committees should also be included.

There will be a change for the Conference Committee, and the listserve needs to be added, once that is up and running. Paul suggested that the latest version of the Manual should be put on the MOS web site so that everyone has access to it and can make suggestions for any changes they feel are necessary. The Manual will then be reviewed at the next board meeting.

Speakers List: Janet Shields is updating the list and is looking for new people to include. Please send any suggestions to her along with the speaker's contact information.

Insurance Waiver: Marcia Balestri is working on the wording of a waiver for young people attending MOS field trips. She hopes to have it ready for board review at the next meeting.

Insurance: The MOS insurance coverage has been increased to be more in line with current cost of living.

NEW BUSINESS

Checklists: Norm Saunders is overseeing the updating of MOS Checklists. They will then be reprinted and each chapter, according to their number of members, will be given a number of the new lists at no charge. Once these are gone, the chapters may purchase more from MOS.

Interactive Mapping-Bird Clubs: Wayne Bell talked about an organization called MapMuse. They wish to provide interactive maps for many areas of interest. Two areas might pertain to MOS. One is locations of bird clubs and the other is birding hot spots throughout Maryland. It is very advertisement-intensive along with the map of birding information. Several of our chapters are already involved. Wayne's question is does MOS want to be involved with this or should this be chapters only. Something to think about and discuss at the next board meeting.

Exhibitor at BirdFest 2007: MOS has been invited to participate in the IMBD at the Zoo on April 28-29 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Marcia Balestri is looking for someone to handle this and find volunteers to man an MOS display during the two days.

Bay Day Celebration: The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum of St. Michaels

has issued an invitation to have MOS represented at a Bay Day celebration on April 21. Wayne Bell will contact the Talbot Chapter for assistance in participating.

Duck Stamp Holders: The Georgia Ornithological Society is offering a Duck Stamp holder and Duck Stamp for \$15 as a way to encourage more birders to buy and display the Duck Stamp. Taylor McLean will set up a link for this on the MOS website. Enoch Pratt Free Library Letter: The library thanked MOS for their on-going contribution of Birds of the World. They have just received Volume 11.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

NEW ACTION ITEMS

- Executive Council to coordinate revisions and additions to MOS Manual of Operations. Board members to submit comments and recommendations for changes to Paul Zucker, paul.zucker@jhuapl.edu. The Manual of Operations will be posted on the MOS website.
- President Balestri will organize MOS display at National Zoo on International Migratory Bird Day. Contact Marcia Balestri, mebalestri@comcast.net.
- Vice President Bell to contact Talbot Chapter in response to an invitation to have MOS represented at a "Bay Day" celebration being organized by the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, MD, on April 21.
- Vice President Bell to explore with George Radcliffe the possibility of offering an MOS workshop on activities that have helped him recruit young people into birding and the organizations.
- Executive Council to draft, review, and finalize language for waivers and/or permission slips for youth activities.
- Chapter members to be asked to write local State Senators and Representatives in opposition to SB 566 and HB 1072, both of which bypass public comment

BOARD MINUTES (continued from page 7)

requirements for proposed wind power generation facilities in Maryland. A sample letter will be posted on the MOS web site.

- Chapters to consider setting goals for new member recruitment and member retention; also review procedures for persons whose membership has lapsed. For more information contact the new Membership Committee chair, Sarel Cousins, montzul@hotmail.com.
- Chapters to announce Sanctuary work weekends for Irish Grove on April 14-15 and Carey Run the weekend of April 28. Contact Brent Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com, for more information.
- Chapters are asked to compile any youth activities (e.g., talks, field trips, resource materials) they may have undertaken in the recent past. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@qacps.K12.md.us.
- Chapters are asked to visit the MapMuse website and consider how their chapters and MOS might best be represented on this public resource.
<http://find.mapmuse.com>;
http://find.mapmuse.com/interest/birding_clubs;
http://find.mapmuse.com/interest/birding_hotspots.
- Atlas miniroute persons are still needed for the 2007 breeding season. Contact Nancy Martin, rossgull@baybroadband.net.
- Chapters are needed to host MOS board meetings for September and December 2007. Contact Wayne Bell, wbell2@washcoll.edu.
- Membership Chair Sarel Cousins, montzul@hotmail.com, to check on membership trends for other environmental organizations.
- Webmaster Taylor McLean, taylormcl@comcast.net, to set up a link to Duck Stamp and stamp holder offer being made by the Georgia Ornithological Society.

President Marcia Balestri adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by
—Janet Shields, Secretary

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT, APRIL 30, 2007

Operating Fund

Income

Membership Dues	\$27,238.50
World Series of Birding	491.85
Sales	1,577.82
Environmental Fund of MD	4,001.15
Interest/Other	5,886.48
Rainforest Conservation	3,000.00
Donations	1,040.00
Total Income	\$43,235.80

Expense

Affiliations, Memberships	\$ 250.00
Audit & Tax Preparation	6,530.00
Awards	307.54
Bulk Storage	2,904.00
Conservation	750.00
Development & Environmental Fund	182.86
Liability Insurance	4,007.00
Library	204.00
Maryland Birdlife	3,173.77
Maryland Yellowthroat	6,924.55
Membership Data Base Management	750.00
Membership and Listserve	422.58
MOS Web Site	153.00
Office Suppl, Postage, Copies, Training	612.25
Other Publications	1,400.99
Rainforest Conservation	3,000.00
Sales Tax	94.19
Telephone	790.77
World Series of Birding	695.00

Total Expense **\$33,152.50**

Atlas Fund

Income

\$67,505.88

Expense

\$57,105.75

Education Fund

Income

\$11,168.00

Expense

\$ 247.87

Research Fund

Income (includes prior-year carry-over)

\$12,278.00

Expense

\$10,774.00

Sanctuary Fund

Income (includes prior-year carry-over)

\$48,138.50

Expense

\$18,365.14

Scholarship Fund

Income (includes prior-year carry-over)

\$24,587.00

Expense

\$16,964.94

Conference 2006 (Total)

Income

\$42,264.00

Expense

\$42,111.04

E. Holdridge
MOS Treasurer



ATLAS: LAST CALL FOR DATA AND CORRECTIONS

BY WALTER ELLISON

Access to online data entry for the Maryland/D.C. Breeding Bird Atlas at the site hosted by the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC) will close a year after the final atlas field season on September 30. If you have atlas data you have not finalized (closed your field card for 2006), reviewed for minor transcription errors, or not yet entered, or you want to make an archival copy of your atlas contributions, you will need to go to the site before the end of September.

Closing data entry does not mean that all avenues of adding data to the PWRC database will be lost after late September. I will be able to send any new information to the database manager at PWRC, should you discover that a bird was found or proved to be nesting in your block during the project, but which was not added to the atlas database. Simply e-mail me at rossgull@baybroadband.net or send the data to my postal address (23460 Clarissa Rd,

Chestertown, MD 21620). There will also be instructions posted on the Maryland/D.C. atlas home page at the Patuxent BBA Explorer web site on reviewing, finalizing, and archiving your personal atlas contributions.

If you still have your paper field cards, it would be useful to save them for future atlas observers. If you, your county coordinator, or local chapter have no plans for archiving field cards, I am willing to take field cards until MOS produces a plan for their long-term storage. If you do not have your old field cards, that is not a serious problem; I note that most observers never had a reference field card from the 1980s in any of their assigned blocks. Nonetheless, well-annotated field cards could be helpful for people working in your block two decades hence.

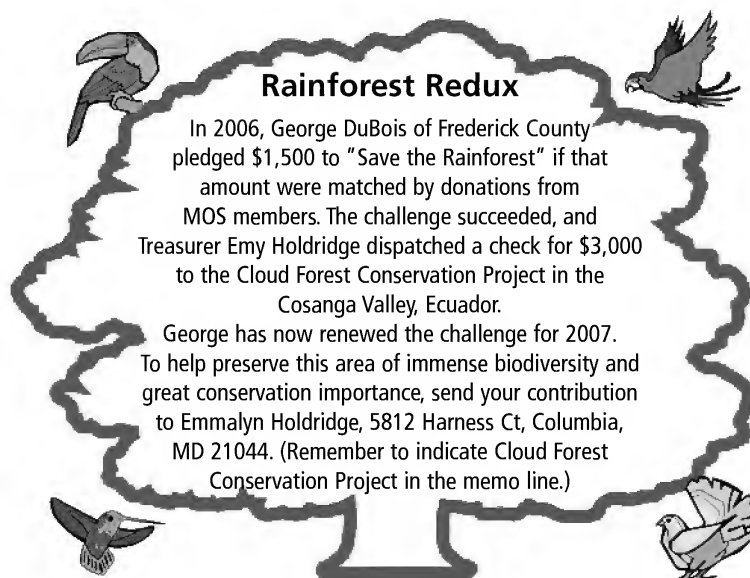
Once again, if you possess any un-entered new data for birds in your block(s), or you have not yet finalized your card(s) please do so. The clock is ticking.

Rainforest Update

In sending "heartfelt thanks" to MOS, Ian Davidson, the regional director of Birdlife International, wrote that he asked the local site support group in the Cosanga Valley, Yanayacu Biological Research Centre, to develop a proposal on how they would invest the MOS funds for conservation purposes. "The site is unique for a number of resident species, including the elusive Peruvian Antpitta, which up until two years ago was virtually unknown except for a few museum specimens. Perhaps of even more interest is a potential new species of owl that was recently caught and tracked using radio collars provided by the Canadian Wildlife Service."

"Yanayacu is keen to initiate banding work in the area and I am hoping some of these funds will help to support this. Little is known about Neotropical migrants and their habitat requirements in this area. . . . In 2006, through funds from Field Guides, we helped to purchase 25 acres of prime forest and initiate surveys of the area. One acre currently costs about \$150 US,

and we are trying to raise additional monies to consolidate this and protect a corridor linking the high Andean paramo (alpine habitat) with the lowland Amazon rainforest that abuts the IBA. . .



"We hope we can report back on the progress made with support from the Maryland Ornithological Society. At some future date, it would be interesting to explore a possible working tour of the area by members of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Using shared species to link groups from north and south is possibly one of the most powerful tools we have to build long-lasting supporting relationships for bird conservation at the local level."

Ian Davidson also sent a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Cordillera de Huacamayas IBA, which chapters may borrow.



ALLEGANY COUNTY

George and Barbara Gaffney got Bicknell's Thrush in Saranac Lake, N.Y. in early June and Three-toed Woodpecker a few weeks later on an Elderhostel trip to Emerald Lake in the Canadian Rockies.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Big Bend & Hill Country, Texas.

In April, Kim Hudyma, Kathy Neugebauer, Bobbi Reichwein, Wafi Gainey, Peter Hanan, Stephen Hult, and Jean Wheeler traveled to El Paso to begin the adventure. The requisite visit to a sewage treatment plant near Ft. Bliss surprised us with Gambel's Quail. The Davis Mountains were the next stop. Here we had Scott's Oriole, Black-crested Titmouse, and Greater Roadrunner—but no Montezuma Quail. We arranged a tour of The Nature Conservancy's Davis Mountain Preserve with Carol Edwards, the TNC guide; thanks to her 4WD vehicle we saw lots, including Javelina, Wild Turkey, Grace's Warbler, and Buff-breasted Flycatcher.

Big Bend National Park was resplendent with blossoms due to earlier spring rains. Ocotillos were blooming everywhere, and that's probably why we missed Lucifer's Hummingbird—too many blooms! We found the famed Colima Warbler about 2 miles up on the easier Laguna Meadows trail; we had not one but two great looks at the unimpressive but much-desired bird. Another highlight was the 30-foot dagger yucca in bloom; this 250- to 300-year-old cactus hadn't bloomed since 1987.

The Hill Country was our last stop. At Kerr WMA we found the Black-capped Vireo, and at Lost Maples SP

we all enjoyed the Golden-cheeked Warbler. "Neal's Lodges" near Concan caters to birders, and at the various feeding stations we watched Long-billed Thrasher, Painted Bunting, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Olive Sparrow. In the evening we went to a "bat cave" on a private ranch, home to some 14 million Mexican Free-tailed Bats. The strong ammonia and sheep dung odor was quickly forgotten as a Canyon Wren and a bubbly Rock Wren serenaded us. Cave Swallows were circling overhead and we noted the gathering Red-tailed Hawks. Suddenly, at dusk, the swallows disappeared into the cave and the bats started to stream out. One by one the hawks flew into the cloud of bats for a nighttime snack. The trip ended with 177 species.

Ohio in May. "You folks looking for warbles?" The waitress's question caught us off guard. Warbles? "Yes, we've been looking for warblers." We—Peter Hanan, Kim Hudyma, Kathy Neugebauer, Marilyn Taylor, Jean Wheeler, and Bobbi Reichwein—were on a warbler trip to Magee Marsh on the shores of Lake Erie, where migrants on their way north stop to rest before crossing the lake, and birders have excellent opportunities to view them, often at eye level, from an extensive boardwalk. And did we see some warblers! 24 species in all! Additional species there and nearby included both cuckoos, Sora and Virginia Rail, American Golden-Plover, Common Snipe, American Woodcock, and Sedge Wren. We met other MOS folks on the boardwalk. (See Montgomery BC, below.) This was our second trip, and we are already planning for May 2008.

—Bobbi Reichwein

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

Maryland Public Television has created a permanent, annual tribute in the name of longtime BBC member "Miss Jean" Worthley of Hodgepodge Lodge; Hodgepodge Lodge was an award-winning TV nature show in the 1960s. On Saturday, June 9, MPT presented the inaugural "Miss Jean" Award for

Contributions to Children and Families to Kevin Clash, the creative genius behind Sesame Street's Elmo. MPT states that they "are so pleased to be honoring this wonderful woman who is a pioneer in children's television and an advocate for the celebration and preservation of nature."

—Gail Frantz

HOWARD COUNTY

After many trips to Costa Rica and Ecuador, Dennis and Jane Coskren decided to fill in the space between the two countries with their first trip to *Panama*, where they stayed at Canopy Tower (a former US radar station in the rain forest in the old Canal Zone) and Canopy Lodge in the highlands. The Coskrens picked up 26 new life birds, including White-tipped Sicklebill, a particular target. Of special interest was a Harpy Eagle, which they watched chase two young boys down a trail. (Unfortunately, they couldn't count the bird since it was recently reintroduced into the area.)

Late January found Chuck Stirrat and Dave Harvey stuck in Albuquerque, NM, waiting for the highway south of the city to be cleared of four inches of snow. They were headed for *Bosque del Apache* to see the thousands of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese that winter there. One special day provided sightings of Mountain, Western, and Eastern Bluebirds. A trip up Sandia Crest allowed the two to check off three species of rosy finches. While a profitable trip, Chuck maintains that it was cold the whole time.

Each year Shashi Lengade travels to the state of *Maharashtra, India*, to visit relatives. This year she noted many exotic birds right in her own neighborhood, including Indian Pond Heron, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Purple Sunbird, and three different kingfishers—White-breasted, Black-capped, and Collared.

Never discount a trip to the *Alpha Ridge Landfill* with Ralph Cullison. It's dirty, smelly, and none too scenic, but Ralph always manages to conjure up a special bird. An early April trip this year produced a Short-eared Owl, to the delight of the attendees.

The Howard County chapter hosted its *Second Annual Dragonfly Count* on June 16. The 21 participants enjoyed a mostly sunny day and found 44 odonates out of a possible 52. Many of the counters were birders as well. This led to the following scenario: Three people were looking through binoculars at the same small tree. There were the usual excited comments: "Look at that; beautiful." "Where?" "Follow the second branch angling up to the right." "Are you on it yet?" Eventually they discovered that one person was looking at a dragonfly, one at a bird, and one at a butterfly! As organizer June Tveekrem says, "Ah, the joys and hazards of counting with people with multiple interests." Among the better finds were Double-striped Bluet, Rapids Clubtail, Swift River Cruiser, and Banded Pennant. —*Kate Tufts*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Tom Marko and his wife celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with an RV adventure to the Canadian Rockies in June. They spent two weeks hiking and birding in the spectacularly beautiful national parks of Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho, as well as Kananaskis Country north of Calgary. Tom had 70 species for the trip; among 10 new ABA-area birds were Barrow's Goldeneye, N. Goshawk, Spruce Grouse, White-tailed Ptarmigan, American Three-toed Woodpecker, American Dipper, and Townsend's Solitaire. The Markos also observed deer, elk, moose, mountain goats and sheep, black and brown bear, coyote, and an array of small mammals.

Ohio in May encore. The Anne Arundel/Harford county birders at Magee Marsh were but 6 of some 30 MOS folks on the boardwalk the week of May 13. The Montgomery Co Bird Club was represented by Doris and Phil Brody, Sue Classen, Dan Eberly, Jane Farber, Linda Friedland, Jane and Bill Hill, Janet Johnson, Wallace Kornack, Jeanne Lacerte, Cyndie Loeper, Judy McCartney, Willbur Miller, Lydia Schindler, Richard Schubert, and Sally

Wechsler; for some of these folks, this was the eighth consecutive annual pilgrimage. Plus, from Frederick Co, Marcia Balestri and her friend Karen from New Mexico and Lois Kaufmann and her sister Vera; representing Howard Co, Kurt Schwarz. This year's highlight was Mourning Warblers every day.

MoCo was also represented at *Big Bend*. Ed Patten and a NJ friend, traveling in May, found no fewer than nine Colima Warblers, the first—with excellent views—only about halfway to Laguna Meadows. The birds were actively singing and very territorial, Ed reports. Not all the views were equally good, "but after the first couple we were not spending as much time. The last one was at eye level, five feet off the trail on a tree branch on the edge of a canyon, and singing like mad."

—*Jean Wheeler*

SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Four MOS birders met in Waldorf on May 5 to raise money to support the *Cerulean Warbler preserve* managed by Pro Aves in Colombia. Gwen Brewer, Tom Feild, Bill Hubick, and George Jett birded from 3 AM to 11 PM and tallied 130 species. So far, over \$2500 has been pledged for this effort. (If you pledged, please send your money.) The money goes to the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), which sponsored the fund-raising effort through the Bird Conservation Alliance. Since it is never too late to donate, you can still send your checks to ABC at American Bird Conservancy, P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198, attention Alicia Craig. For additional information, contact acraig@abcbirds.org.

TALBOT COUNTY

While traveling in *Armenia* in May, Cathy Cooper saw a sign for a nearby Important Bird Area. Although the writing was in Armenian, which Cathy does not read, the logo and "IBA" were distinctive. She found it grand to see this roadside sign in the Lesser Caucasus region of the Maryland-sized, former Soviet republic of Armenia.

—*Karen Harris*

TRI-COUNTY

Doug Ruby, who over the past 25 years has led birding trips to Florida, Texas, Newfoundland, Point Pelee and the Dominican Republic, led a trip to *southeastern Arizona* in August. Although this was his first bird tour to Arizona, Doug is very familiar with the area, having done his doctoral thesis research on a local lizard. He has also done research on desert tortoises in Big Bend NP and the Las Vegas area. Doug has been teaching in the Biology Department of the U. of Maryland Eastern Shore for 14 years, where he specializes in Animal Behavior.

"Safe Dates" for Listers

Gwen Brewer and I went to Michigan on June 21, generally a safe time when rarities are rare in Maryland, for our annual summer visit to Gwen's family. No sooner had we arrived than Mark Hoffman posts a White-faced Ibis at the West Ocean City pond on June 22. Both Gwen and I need this for a state bird, and I need it for a state photo species. We are not coming home until June 27. Drat!

To add insult to injury, Bob Eppley, a friend who lives in Morgantown, MD, called on June 24 to tell me he was looking at an American White Pelican at Lower Cedar Point, Charles County. Now I am starting to think I just acquired the Gail Mackiernan/ Barry Cooper syndrome.

On June 27, while we were on the road, Bob called me on my cell phone and told me the White Pelican was still at Lower Cedar Point. Gwen and I had only driven about 600 miles at that point, so we decided to continue the extra 75 miles to Lower Cedar Point. We got there before dark; I had my camera and took the breeding-plumage image—number 270 for my Charles County list. (Thanks, Bob.)

The White-faced Ibis was last seen on June 30; I tried for it, but my luck had run out.

Next year the Brewers are coming to Maryland.

—*George Jett*

MARYLAND/DC RECORDS COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT AS OF JULY 20, 2007

BY PHIL DAVIS, MD/DCRC SECRETARY

The MD/DCRC has reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 105 through 107 and 110. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:
<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>

MD RECORDS ACCEPTED:

- Anhinga**, *Anhinga anhinga* [MD/1999-037]
Havre de Grace, Harford County
18-Apr-1999
- Anhinga**, *Anhinga anhinga* [MD/1999-036]
Hollywood, Saint Mary's County
08-May-1999
- Anhinga**, *Anhinga anhinga* [MD/2006-036]
Lilypons Water Gardens, Frederick County
18-Apr-2006 through 23-Apr-2006
- Anhinga**, *Anhinga anhinga* [MD/2006-035]
Columbia, Howard County
22-Apr-2006
- White-faced Ibis**, *Plegadis chihi* [MD/2006-039]
South Point, Worcester County
20-May-2006
- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2001-041]
Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel County
14-Aug-2001
- Ross's Goose**, *Chen rossii* [MD/1999-206]
Black Hill Regional Park, Montgomery County
30-Dec-1995
- "Common" Teal**, *Anas crecca crecca* [MD/2005-030]
Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Talbot County
31-Mar-2005 through 08-Apr-2005
- Swainson's Hawk**, *Buteo swainsoni* [MD/2003-113]
Dan's Mountain, Allegany County
21-Sep-2003
- Yellow Rail**, *Coturnicops noveboracensis* [MD/2000-037]
Cumberland, Allegany County
31-Aug-2000
- Purple Gallinule**, *Porphyrio martinica* [MD/2004-038]
Laurel, Prince George's County
30-Jun-2004 through 07-Jul-2004
- Black-legged Kittiwake**, *Rissa tridactyla* [MD/2000-009]
Point Lookout State Park, Saint Mary's County
26-Dec-1999
- Common Murre**, *Uria aalge* [MD/2004-022]
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County
03-Apr-2004
- Thick-billed Murre**, *Uria lomvia* [MD/1999-102]
Kensington, Montgomery County
24-Nov-1899
- Thick-billed Murre**, *Uria lomvia* [MD/1999-204]
Ocean City Inlet, Worcester County
06-Nov-1999
- Ash-throated Flycatcher**, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/1999-108]
Beltsville, Prince George's County
25-Nov-1911
- Ash-throated Flycatcher**, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/1997-642]
Monkton, Baltimore County
22-Nov-1957 through 27-Nov-1957
- Ash-throated Flycatcher**, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2000-054]
Assateague, Worcester County
11-Nov-2000 through 12-Nov-2000
- Ash-throated Flycatcher**, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2001-033]
Assateague National Seashore, Worcester County
29-Sep-2001
- Ash-throated Flycatcher**, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2001-087]
Chesapeake Farms, Kent County
16-Dec-2001 through 19-Dec-2001
- Ash-throated Flycatcher**, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2003-145]
Fort McHenry National Monument, Baltimore County
03-Dec-2003 through 04-Dec-2003
- Painted Bunting**, *Passerina ciris* [MD/2002-040]
St. Michaels, Talbot County
02-Dec-2002 through 16-Dec-2002
- Painted Bunting**, *Passerina ciris* [MD/2005-013]
Royal Oak, Talbot County
21-Dec-2002 through 08-Feb-2003
- Painted Bunting**, *Passerina ciris* [MD/2005-014]
Royal Oak, Talbot County
19-Apr-2003 through 24-Apr-2003
- Painted Bunting**, *Passerina ciris* [MD/2003-117]
Assateague Island Nat Seashore, Worcester County
05-Sep-2003
- Painted Bunting**, *Passerina ciris* [MD/2004-012]
Ellicott City, Howard County
15-Dec-2003 through 24-Dec-2003
- Painted Bunting**, *Passerina ciris* [MD/2004-019]
Lexington Park, Saint Mary's County
08-May-2004
- Painted Bunting**, *Passerina ciris* [MD/2004-023]
Berlin, Worcester County
22-May-2004

Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula* [MD/2006-046]
 Laytonsville, Montgomery County
 16-Dec-2000

Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula* [MD/2003-009]
 Hampstead, Carroll County
 18-Jan-2003 through 07-Mar-2003

MD RECORDS ACCEPTED—GROUP:

Puffinus species, *Puffinus* sp. [MD/1999-199]
 Point Lookout State Park, Saint Mary's County
 28-Aug-1998

frigatebird species, *Fregata* sp. [MD/1997-652]
 Ocean City, Worcester County
 13-Jul-1996

frigatebird species, *Fregata* sp. [MD/1997-584]
 Ocean City, Worcester County
 13-Jul-1996

MD RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED:

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga* [MD/1999-044]
 Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Saint Mary's County
 15-Jun-1999

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga* [MD/2002-032]
 Assateague Island, Worcester County
 25-May-2002

Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera* [MD/2003-116]
 Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore County
 30-Aug-2003

Ross's Gull, *Rhodostethia rosea* [MD/2005-041]
 Lapidum, Harford County
 31-Mar-2005

Magnificent Hummingbird, *Eugenes fulgens*
 [MD/2005-155]
 Arnold, Anne Arundel County
 31-Aug-2005

DC RECORDS ACCEPTED:

Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis* [DC/1999-209]
 14-Apr-1893

MD/DC RECORDS COMMITTEE

The newest additions to the Records Committee are Stan Arnold (Glen Burnie), Paul DeAnna (DC), and Leo Weigant (Severna Park). They join continuing members Tyler Bell (California, MD), John Hubbell (DC), George Jett (Waldorf), Ray Kiddy (Cumberland), Ellen Lawler (Salisbury), and Marcia Watson (Elkton). Rotating off at the end of their three-year terms were Ed Boyd, Paul Pisano, and Sherman Suter. Paul O'Brien continues as Chair and Phil Davis continues as Secretary.

Middleton Evans Slide Show to Benefit Atlas



Celebrated Maryland photographer Middleton Evans is going to present a selection of slides from his new book, *Rhapsody in Blue, A Celebration of North American Waterbirds* in Howard County on Sunday, November 4, and the proceeds from the affair will be shared between the

MOS Breeding Bird Atlas project and the Robinson Nature Center.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion period, reception, and book-signing. Prior to the presentation, photographs from the book will be displayed at Howard County libraries.

Middleton Evans has spent most of his 20-year career documenting the many faces of Maryland. In 2001 Maryland Public Television selected him as one of six local photographers to be featured in the documentary film *Images of Maryland: 1900-2000*, chronicling the state's most distinguished lensmen of the 20th century. *Rhapsody in Blue* had its genesis in a 10-day Florida bird marathon in 1998; over the next five years Middleton made 37 trips throughout North America in search of encounters with waterbirds.

Sponsored by The James and Anne Robinson Foundation and Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, the event will take place in the Kittleman Room in the English, Language, Business building of Howard Community College from 2 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$12. Free parking is available in Lot A. For additional information or to register, contact Mary O'Neill at 443-733-1203.

RESEARCH GRANTS DEADLINE

The Maryland Ornithological Society announces the availability of research grants for ornithological research to be conducted in the state of Maryland. Grants are generally limited to amounts less than \$2,000. If the research is to be done at or near one of the MOS sanctuaries, the society may be able to provide accommodations at a nominal cost. Proposals are reviewed twice annually with deadlines of 1 December and 1 June with award notification in approximately eight weeks. For application guidelines and further information, write or e-mail:

Dave Ziolkowski
 MOS Research Committee
 North American Breeding Bird Survey
 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
 12100 Beech Forest Rd, Laurel, MD 20708-4038
 dziolkowski@usgs.gov • 301-497-5753



Fall Count 2007

The annual Fall Seasonal Count sponsored by MOS will take place on the traditional third weekend of September; the choice of day, Saturday, September 15 or Sunday, September 16, is left to the discretion of local chapters and coordinators. Chapters that have not included a formal count in their programs this year are urged to plan to do so in the future.

Everyone is urged to participate, regardless of skill level. Identification is only part of being successful; you have to spot the bird first, so every pair of eyes helps.

The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation for unusual sightings.

A checklist compilation form is available on the MOS web site, in the "Annual Counts" section: <http://www.mdbirds.org/counts/fall/fallcount.html>. The list includes those species one would expect to find in Maryland during this season. Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks, and all write-ins require full details.

County coordinators who have volunteered so far are listed on the MOS web site. Anyone already organizing a count or interested in volunteering as a coordinator for a county without a coordinator are encouraged to contact me.

If you don't have web access or if you are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, you can contact me directly. Individual parties or other groups (e.g., Hawk Watch sites, field trips) that count in areas without a coordinator, but have data for the count period, are asked to submit their data, along with details on what area was covered, participants, and coverage statistics, directly to me by **October 14**.

Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county coordinator is no later than October 7, 2007. County compilers are asked to submit compilations to the state coordinator by November 1.

Please plan to join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat, Fall Count Coordinator
13318 Hunt Ridge
Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155
Home phone: 410-531-2417
E-mail: ChuckS@msualum.com (home)
Charles.Stirrat@jhuapl.edu (work)

2008 MOS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

BY TOM STRIKWERDA

The Maryland Ornithological Society is now accepting applications from Maryland teachers, park rangers, and youth leaders for scholarships to attend weeklong summer ecology and ornithology workshops. In 2007, scholarship recipients attended workshops at Audubon camps in Maine and Minnesota, and the 2008 workshop selection is expected to be similar. Awards, each valued at about \$1100, cover tuition, room, and board for an intensive six days of field study and instruction in ecology, ornithology, conservation, or natural history. Travel expenses to and from the workshops are the responsibility of the recipient. Each year MOS awards approximately 14 scholarships.

Please note that specific dates and program information from the camps usually are not available until December or January. However, information about the 2007 choices, many of which repeat, can serve as a guide and is available on the MOS web site (www.mdbirds.org). Web sites of the Audubon organizations offering the workshops also can provide additional information, but please note that not all workshops listed by those organizations are approved for the MOS Scholarship program. Choices for 2008 will be posted on the MOS web site as they become available.

To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must work with young people in Maryland. Typical applicants are teachers, camp counselors, park rangers, students, and others who intend to make nature education a part of their careers. Applicants do not need to be members of MOS, but an MOS chapter or a member must endorse them. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Each candidate must submit the following:

- A written statement in the form of a letter, no more than two pages in length, describing how the Audubon experience will be used to develop in young people an appreciation of our natural heritage and a sense of responsibility

for the care and quality of our natural resources and environment.

- Two letters of recommendation from individuals who know of the candidate's interests, activities, abilities, and potential. *One of these letters must be from either a member of MOS or a chapter of MOS.* Each MOS chapter has a scholarship representative to assist potential applicants with recommendations. Please contact your local chapter president for the representative or contact the Scholarship Committee Chair (see below) for a person to contact in your area. It is very helpful if the letters of recommendation cite specific activities, accomplishments, or projects in which the applicant was involved, in addition to personal qualities.
- A current resume.

Applications for the 2008 workshops are due by January 31, 2008. The Scholarship Committee evaluates candidates during February, and winners are notified in early March.

Please direct questions and submit applications to Tom Strikwerda, Chair of the MOS Scholarship Committee, 9806 Culver Ct, Kensington, MD 20895, telephone: 301-942-2841, e-mail: tom.strikwerda@verizon.net. All chapter presidents and representatives are urged to disseminate this information as widely as possible to all educators and youth leaders in the state. A broad base of applicants is needed to ensure wide participation and quality candidates in the selection process.

The December Board

meeting, hosted by Talbot County, will take place December 8 at Blackwater NWR. Harry Armistead will lead a field trip.

WSB: ANOTHER STELLAR YEAR FOR THE MOS YELLOWTHROATS

New member Bill Hubick—who brings a great ear and a great Screech Owl imitation—and I went up to Cape May Tuesday evening and settled in for three days of scouting. We were joined Wednesday night by veteran teammates Zach Baer and “The Captain” Matt Hafner.

Once again we split Cape May County into four sections. Bill took over former team member Hans Holbrook’s area of Oceanside, where he had to hammer out tides and find where all the waders and shorebirds were hanging out. Zach was in charge of the Delaware Bay shore and Beaver Swamp, looking for rails, marsh sparrows, and any rarities (like the White-faced Ibis that were frequenting Bear Swamp). I was in charge of locating a Dawn Chorus spot and getting woodland breeders in Belle Plain State Forest. Our Captain once again took Cape Island and schmoozed with all the bigwigs, trying to pick up any bits of information that might be floating around.

While scouting is always fun, there’s a lot of pressure. Where were all the woodcock? Seeing only one Hairy Woodpecker in two and a half days of scouting was very unnerving. Why weren’t the Summer Tanagers singing? These were just my problems. Bill, Zach, and Matt were having their own. The winds seemed to be blowing off the ocean all week, producing heavy fog that reduced visibility to virtually zero.

When midnight Friday/Saturday finally rolled around, we were delighted to find that it was a beautiful night. We started at the Barred Owl/nightjar spot that was so productive last year. We hooted and called for a few minutes with no responses. Then, just like last year, the police decided to stop by and ask a few questions. After that, the night went smoothly, with King Rails (our first year getting this tough bird), Sora, owls, and Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

By the time we arrived at our Dawn Chorus spot, we were flying

high. The Louisiana Waterthrush had called at 5:10 for the past three mornings in the same location; by 5:20 it still had not sung. I was upset; I had nurtured this bird, we had developed a relationship, and here it was letting me down! A few minutes later Zach cried out he had the waterthrush, down and across the road a few hundred feet. Big sighs of relief all round.

We then headed to Belle Plain State Forest. Our first stop was for Summer Tanagers. (I had traded some spicy bluebird info for a Summer Tanager spot.) Next we headed to the Kentucky Warbler spot. Once again the bird wasn’t singing; the sweats started, but I shouldn’t have worried because my back-up Kentucky Warbler spot paid off right away.

By the time we left Belle Plain State Forest we were over 100 species and feeling great. The day rolled on with the birds falling out of the sky. Unlike the last two years, when there had been virtually zero migrants, this year saw a major fallout. Cerulean, Canada, and many others that we had never ticked before got checked off the list.

Feeling the rush, we headed to our sea watch. Viewing conditions were perfect, and we quickly saw loons, gannets, and terns. Then came the Parasitic Jaeger tearing through the tern flock, and then a pair of CLIFF SWALLOWS went flying down the beach. We were really rolling.

By late afternoon, with our total pushing 170, we knew that we were doing great. But how about the other teams? Knowing that the ABA Tropicbirds and the Cornell team were always on our heels made us try even harder. On the Oceanside, we ticked Bill’s staked-out shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Green Heron, and Long-tailed Duck. This is the year that we finally got Peregrine Falcon. A Lesser Scaup was an added bonus. During the week someone said that waterfowl make or break the WSB Big Day; we were able to tick 16 species of waterfowl, definitely giving us an edge.



By 10:30 PM we had reached our limit. We came to the realization that the only birds we could add were Dickcissel and Grasshopper Sparrow, so we called it a night with a total of 184 species. At the final tally, we found out we had the winning total for the Cape May County class for the second year in a row!

Representing the Maryland birding community is a real honor that the team takes very seriously. Hopefully next year we will be as successful.

—Jim Brighton

Duck Stamps Buy Wetland Habitat

Since 1934, sales of Federal Duck Stamps have been used to obtain over 5.2 million acres of habitat for U.S. National Wildlife Refuges. Duck Stamps cost just \$15 a year, and 98 cents on the dollar reportedly goes directly to the purchase or lease of wetland habitat.

To see more on the Duck Stamp program, a sample stamp, and how to purchase, go to the following site: <http://www.gos.org/duckstamp/duckstamp.htm>. This offering is made by the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS) which has taken a lead role in promoting the purchase of Duck Stamps.

See testimonials by David Sibley, Pete Dunne, and Wayne Petersen (Director of Massachusetts Important Bird Area (IBA) Programs and Co-editor of Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas) as to the validity and benefits of Duck Stamps at: <http://www.gos.org/duckstamp/testimonials.htm>.

In fact, the Duck Stamp Program is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and you can go directly to their site at: <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/Info/Stamps/stampinfo.htm>.

And oh, these stamps are not postage stamps, they are proudly worn, as is illustrated on the Georgia Ornithological Society site; see top link above.

—Taylor McLean

CHIMNEY SWIFTS SWITCHING CHIMNEYS

BY JOAN CWI AND BRYCE BUTLER

The Baltimore Bird Club has been holding **Spring and Fall Swift Counts** for the past five years. Until last year, they were held at the Hampden Bookbindery/Mill Center chimneys. Last fall we decided to try a new approach, a **Swift Count Weekend**, in which we observed over a three-day weekend several local chimneys where roosting Chimney Swifts have been reported. Counts took place at 11 different sites. Little did we know how fortuitous this change of venue would be!

What did we learn from our experiment? First, not all chimneys are equal. Of the 11 sites, at only two did more than a handful of swifts enter, and most had none. Second, swifts are fickle! Our treasured chimneys at the Bookbindery complex, which typically shelter 2,000-5,000 swifts during fall migration, had only *three* birds enter during Swift Count Weekend. We were amazed and appalled; what was happening? Were the swifts devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma? Not likely, since the spring counts were normal. Had the chimneys been capped? Not likely, as some swifts have been observed entering. When we queried Driftwood Wildlife Association in Texas (www.chimneyswifts.org), they let us know that “swift switching” happens, and they don’t know why either.

Fortuitously, we found another productive chimney at the Conservatory at Druid Hill Park (2,210 swifts). Now we had the dilemma of what to do the next week for **2006 Fall Swift Count**, advertised in the BBC Program Booklet as being held at the Bookbindery. We decided to switch to the Conservatory, advertising the change on the BBC website and in MDOsprey. The Conservatory turned out to be a gold mine for us. It is easy to find, it is easy to park, the setting is beautiful, and a spectacular number of swifts (4,680) entered the chimney for Fall 2006 Count. The MDOsprey announcement reached new people, including Congressman (then candidate) John Sarbanes and his son Nico. The Conservatory is run by Baltimore City Dept. of Recreation and Parks (Rec and Parks), which loves the extra publicity, and the count fosters the growing bond between BBC and Parks.

To help Rec and Parks garner additional publicity, we decided to schedule a third watch on September 25. Compared to the previous week, the number of swifts was small, about 770, but the crowd of 15 birdwatchers was treated to a spectacular show as a pair of migrating Merlins tried to feed on the gathering swifts. Again and again the falcons sped through the swirls of swifts, coming up empty each time. At one point the larger, female Merlin hovered above the chimney, hoping to catch a descending swift; her effort also went unrewarded.

Fascinating to watch was the way the swifts reacted after a pass by one of the Merlins. As one of the falcons scythed through unsuccessfully, the swifts would immediately regroup right behind it, so one had the perception of the chaser being chased. Several experienced birders thought this behavior akin to the mobbing behavior of small birds towards raptors and owls perched in the woods. Someone noted that being behind the Merlin was also the safest place to be!

So what did we encounter during the following **2007 Spring Swift Count**? Spring counts are generally much lower—1,000-2,000 birds. But this year it was clear from Driftwood Wildlife Association reports that swift migration was delayed by the extremely cold spring weather. Since our count was already scheduled for the Bookbindery on April 22, we met there and counted just 200 roosting swifts. When it warmed up two weeks later, we observed 800 swifts at the Bookbindery and 300 at the Conservatory the same evening, demonstrating that the swifts were switching around again!

We’ve cast our die and scheduled the **BBC 2007 Fall Swift Count** for Sunday, September 16 at 6:45 at the Druid Hill Park Conservatory. Everyone is welcome. But keep your eye on the BBC website and MDOsprey, in case there is a last-minute change of venue.

Bird Fest 2007 at the National Zoo

MOS was invited to participate as an exhibitor at Bird Fest 2007, a celebration of the 50th annual International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), and those of us who volunteered had a great time talking to all the people who stopped by our exhibit. A special thanks to Kathi and Gerry Buckley, Kathy Brown, Helen Horrocks, Kathy Calvert, and Mike Welch, who set up and manned our booth and visited with all the families that came by to learn something about MOS and birds.

And, boy, were there lots of people. We were warned— a beautiful day at the zoo really brings out the crowds, and it seemed like everyone in and around Washington, DC, showed up! We had visitors from all over the US, as well as Brazil, Colombia, France, Germany, and other countries. Lots of children stopped by, and we were all impressed by how much they already knew about birds and bird identification.

Our booth featured our MOS exhibit and photo displays on migration routes and common area birds. We gave adults brochures on bird-feeding and landscaping for birds, and we had handouts for the children with birds to color and puzzles to work. We conducted a raffle; Bob Keddell of Columbia, MD won our hummingbird feeder. During the morning set-up some of us were treated to the wild



Birds of Note—by Les Roslund

- Two beautiful BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS stopped for a brief rest beside a pond in Glen Burnie, Anne Arundel County, on May 25. Fortunately, Steve Schueman of B&R Construction Services was working in the area and recognized the special nature of these birds. He passed the word to Phil Davis, who reached the pond in time to catch some excellent photos; the photos confirmed natural halluses on both birds, and no bands. Hans Holbrook sped to the scene in time for some viewing, but shortly after 8 PM the birds departed and were not seen again.
- Though the birds remained unseen, the calling of two YELLOW RAILS provided a great birding bonus for several volunteers at an Irish Grove work weekend. The rails were heard Paul Bystrek, Dotty Mumford, and Marylee Ross along Rumbly Point Road in Somerset County on April 13. Tom Feild, who was checking that road the same evening, also heard the birds. Later attempts to hear or see them were not successful.
- Unusual bird sightings often require that a birder be in exactly the right place at exactly the right time. Such was the case on May 9, when Ed Boyd, working in the tower at BWI Airport in Anne Arundel County, saw a WHITE-WINGED DOVE fly by. Fortunately the lighting was excellent and the bird was close enough to allow reading of numerous key field marks. Ed had the additional advantage of being highly familiar with the species; at his previous job in the airport tower in Phoenix, he watched waves of these doves migrate past for a couple of weeks each spring.
- On July 20, Dave Powell was treated to a view of a WHITE IBIS on one of the ponds of Merkle WMA in Prince George's County. This bird, in the company of some immature Little Blue Herons, remained in the area for several days and provided rewarding views for a number of additional birders.
- During an early spring visit to Garrett County, Scott Baron of VA reported a PACIFIC LOON on the lake in Herrington Manor SP. The breeding-plumaged loon



King Rails lured numerous birders to Lilypons Water Gardens, Frederick Co, in mid-June. Photo taken June 19, 2007 by George Jett .

helped to establish its identity by providing at least two vocalizations. Later attempts to relocate this bird proved unsuccessful.

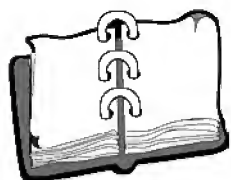
- Hart-Miller Island in Baltimore County offers amazing birding throughout the year, and Gene Scarpulla's weekly census typically finds a wide array of species along with a few surprises. A May 26 surprise was an ARCTIC TERN, seen both in flight and standing, by Gene and seven other birders. The only previous ARCTIC TERN sighting on the island occurred on May 22, 1999.
- On Poplar Island in Talbot County, where another dredge spoils deposition is under way, a SEASIDE SPARROW showed up in the May 15 census conducted by Jan Reese. This was the first SEASIDE SPARROW sighting on the island, but it was not unexpected since the habitat is suitable. Later in the season a second SEASIDE SPARROW joined the first, and both were still there as of June 29.

serenades of Siamang and White-cheeked Gibbon apes, which were just around the corner from our booth. What amazing sounds came out of those guys! And we snuck in a wee bit of birding before the crowds showed up—Black-and-white Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Black-throated Green Warbler, and of course, the resident Black-crowned Night-Heron.

This year, in addition to promoting the joy of birds, IMBD emphasized the impacts of global warming. Bird Fest 2007 featured interactive exhibits by over 20 organizations and agencies involved in bird research and conservation, habitat protection, environmental education, and other related topics. Other festival highlights included educational activities for families, avian arts and crafts for children, and live performances by Evergreen Theater.

Founded in 1993, IMBD is now the hallmark event of "Partners in Flight," an international coalition whose mission emphasizes the conservation of birds not covered by existing conservation initiatives. Each spring events in the US, Canada, and Latin America celebrate the epic journeys of billions of migratory birds that breed in the US and Canada and winter in Latin America and the Caribbean. Of equal importance, IMBD aims to make people aware of the problems that lead to declines in many bird species and to educate people on what they can do to help alleviate those problems.

—Marcia Balestri



MOS Calendar

September-October 2007

Saturday, September 1

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Diverse habitat that includes stream, woods, and fields. Expect to see a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet 8 AM. Directions: from I-695, take Exit 29A/Cromwell Bridge Rd. Turn north (away from the city) onto Cromwell Bridge Rd. At 1.4 miles, turn left at the "Willow Grove Farm Entrance." Follow entrance road, then turn left after bridge and park in lot on left. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants and Hawk Watch Kickoff. Half day. Meet 7 AM at Turkey Point parking lot. From North East, take Rte 272 south about 11 miles. Leader: Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net. Trip Coordinator: Richard Donham, 610-932-0634 (h) or donhamr@zoominternet.net.

Harford. Swan Harbor. Meet leader Dave Webb, one guy who really knows his shorebirds, which should be within easy viewing at this great Harford location. Enjoy a leisurely stroll around the ponds looking for birds that rely on this varied habitat for a significant stop as they head south. Start at the lot at the end of the lane on the left at 7 AM. Call Dave at 410-939-3537, for more info.

Howard. Butterflies through Binoculars. 2-3 hours. Enjoy expert instruction on butterfly identification. Dick Smith will provide info on host and nectar plants for different species. Easy walking on paved path by the fields and marshes. We will study some butterflies in the hand. Close focus binoculars helpful. Meet 9:30 AM at Meadowbrook Park parking lot. Leader: Dick Smith, 410-997-7439. Facilities available.

Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.

Sunday, September 2

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. First in a series of casual fall walks. Meet 8:30 AM at the Mansion's front porch on Sunday mornings for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Directions: from I-695, go south on I-83 Jones Falls Expwy. Take Northern Pkwy Exit west (right). Move to left lane and turn left onto Cylburn Ave, left (south) onto Greenspring Ave; turn left again almost immediately at stone gate; follow drive to circle in front of mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave. If access is blocked by construction, return to Greenspring Ave and turn right (north), then right on Cylburn Dr and right again on new driveway up the hill to the back of the grounds, and proceed towards and around the big main mansion house to the front porch. No designated leader. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Baltimore. The Butterflies of Soldiers Delight. 1-3 PM. Join butterfly expert Dick Smith for a field trip at this globally rare ecosystem. Dick will begin the afternoon with a 20-minute slide show to acquaint us with the area. After that, a trip to the fields of Soldiers Delight will allow us the opportunity to see these beautiful insects up close and personal. Directions: from I-695 Exit 18/Liberty Rd go west 4 miles, bear right onto Deer Park Rd just before traffic light and water tower, go approximately 1.5 miles to the

Visitor/Nature Center or 2 miles to the historical marker. The park charges \$2 per person for this event. Meet 1 PM at the Visitor/Nature Center. Cancelled if raining. To verify the trip is on and for more info, call the park at 410-461-5005.

Harford. Harford Glen. Join co-leaders Lynn Davis and Dave Larkin on a trip through the marshes, fields, and forests of this perennial club favorite. Always a productive location. Blue-winged Teal, Veery, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and Chestnut-sided Warblers are likely, with Empidonax flycatchers a noteworthy possibility. Meet at the first lot (pond-side) at 7 AM. Contact Lynn at 410-569-0504, for more info.

Montgomery. Western Montgomery County Mixed Bag. Two-thirds day. Start at Violette's Lock with a scan of the river and then drive north along River Rd, stopping at polo grounds, Hughes Hollow, Sycamore Landing Rd, and Patton Turf Farm. Expect warblers and other migrants, with Buff-breasted Sandpiper and American Golden-Plover a possibility. Meet 7:30 AM at Violette's Lock parking lot, end of Violette's Lock Rd. Scopes recommended but not required. Bring lunch. Limit: 10. Reservations required. Leader: Andy Martin, 301-294-4805, 301-529-2066 (cell), or apmartin2@comcast.net.

Talbot. Tilghman Island. Warblers, flycatchers, terns, gulls, and others. Leader: Jan Reese, 410-745-2875. Depart 7 AM St. Michaels Village Shopping Center, St. Michaels.

Tuesday, September 4

Baltimore. Lake Roland (Robert E. Lee Park). First in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Habitats include woods, lake, streams, and marsh. This park's impressive bird list includes songbirds, herons, shorebirds, and raptors. Meet 8:30 AM on footbridge. Directions: from I-695 take Jones Falls Expwy (I-83) south to Northern Pkwy Exit, and go east (left) to next light, Falls Rd. On Falls Rd turn left

(north). Immediately after third light (Lake Ave), turn immediate right (before Falls Rd bridge), then curve left and right again (avoid Light Rail entrance) and go 0.5 mile to the dam. Park and walk to footbridge. Leader: Patsy Perlman, 419-466-3998 or pattonyp@juno.com.

MEETING. Baltimore. Tuesday Evenings at Cromwell Valley. "The Evolutionary Paradox of Delayed Plumage Maturation in Short-lived Songbirds." *Frode Jacobsen*, PhD student at U. of MD-Baltimore Co, will speak about his research on plumage in orioles and other species. Directions: from I-695, take Exit 29A/Cromwell Bridge Rd. Turn north (away from the city) onto Cromwell Bridge Rd. At 1.4 miles, turn left at sign for "Sherwood Farm." Follow entrance road, then turn right after bridge and follow loop as it curves left, right, and left again to parking on the right. Walk further along the road through the stone arch to the Sherwood House entrance door on the left. Inside the door, refreshments will be in a room on your left, library and lecture room on your right. Doors open at the Sherwood House at 7 PM for socializing and snacks; show starts about 7:45 or 8 PM. Info: Pete Webb, pete_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, September 5

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather (rain, sleet, snow, fog, etc.). Directions: from I-695 southwest of the city, take Exit 11/I-95 north towards the city. Get off at Exit 55/Hanover St. Turn east (right) on McComas St, north (left) on Key Hwy. Take first left onto Lawrence St, turn left onto Fort Ave, continue through gateway into the park. Meet outside the Visitor Center at 8 AM. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Baltimore. Evening walks at Fort McHenry. Cancelled in rain, fog, etc. See above listing for directions, but meet 6 PM and park on Wallace St near main gate. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

MEETING. Carroll. "Filming Birds in Costa Rica" by *Marty Brazeau*. 7:30 PM at Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Info: Karen Mobley, karenm657@comcast.net.

Thursday, September 6

MEETING. Frederick. *Bob Schaffer* will present a video on his birding trip to western Ecuador. 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

Saturday, September 8

ANNUAL FALL POTLUCK PICNIC.

Anne Arundel. 4 PM at Cape St. John Community Beach. For more info contact host: Susan Zevin, 410-573-9424.

Baltimore. Hampton National Historic Site. Meadow and woodland birds. Meet 8 AM. Directions: From I-695, take Exit 27/Dulaney Valley Rd north. Turn right at very first road, Hampton Ln (traffic light). Drive approximately 1 mile (past park sign) and make a left turn onto farm lane and proceed to the farmhouse parking lot (you will see the farmhouse at the end of the lane). Leader: Ben Poscover, 410-823-2548.

Frederick. Hart-Miller Island. Gene Scarpula will lead us on a 7-8 mile trek around Hart-Miller Island to look for migrating shorebirds. Be sure to bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, and bug spray. Mike Welch is coordinating the trip and space is limited. To make reservations and get meeting time and place, contact Mike at 301-874-5828.

ANNUAL PICNIC. Harford. Picnic, general meeting, and bird hike in White Hall beginning at 1 PM. Generously hosted this year once again by the Kirkwood family at their farm in White Hall (very near the world-famous Bradenbaugh Flats!). Contact Russ Kovach at 443-386-4787, for add'l info.

Howard. Beginner's Bird Walk at Lake Elkhorn. 2-3 hours. Easy walking on paved path around the lake to learn tips on bird identification. Learn which species of birds are

common to our area. Advice on binocular and field guide selection. Combination of water, woodland, and fields should provide a wide variety of species. Meet 8:30 AM at Broken Land Pkwy lot. Leaders: Mike and Grazina McClure, 410-531-2780. No facilities.

Sunday, September 9

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at Mansion's front porch on Sunday mornings for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. For directions see Sept 2. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Caroline and Talbot. Tuckahoe SP. Caroline: meet 8 AM at the Woods Trail parking lot near the lake. Talbot: Depart 7 AM from Acme parking lot, Easton, and bring lunch or snack. Leader Danny Poet, 410-827-8651 or birder231@hotmail.com, will meet both groups at parking lot.

Montgomery. Hugh Mahanes Presidents' Walk. Half day. Our traditional Presidents' Walk has been renamed in honor of Past President Hugh Mahanes and will be led this year by his good friends and birding companions, Mark England and Jim Green. Participation of all former Chapter Presidents is encouraged and everyone is welcome. Bring lunch for a post-walk picnic. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot at the end of Riley's Lock Rd off River Rd. Reservations not required. Info: Mark at 301-253-4139 or Jim at 301-208-2393.

Tuesday, September 11

MEETING. Allegany/Garrett. Speaker, location, and topic TBA. 7 PM Allegany Co Main Library, 31 Washington St, Cumberland, 301-777-1200. Located across the street from the Board of Ed Bldg.


Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Sept 4 for details. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

Indicates Field Trip


MOS Calendar (continued from page 19)


MEETING. **Kent.** Speaker TBA. 7:30 PM. Wesley Hall, Heron Point, E Campus Ave, Chestertown. For info, contact Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** "Birding Brazil's Pantanal" by *Greg Kearns*. 7:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.


 **Washington.** Fort Frederick SP. Half day. Leave 7:15 AM from Rte 65 P&R below the DMV. Contact Ann Mitchell at 240-420-0808, for info.

Wednesday, September 12

 **Baltimore.** Greenmount Cemetery. The first of two cemetery walks to investigate bird life in Balt City. These pockets of green space are relatively undisturbed and unexplored. Meet 9:30 AM at the cemetery, 1501 Greenmount Ave. From I-83, take North Ave Exit. At light, turn left (east) onto North Ave. Go 10 blocks. Turn right on Greenmount Ave and go 4 short blocks. At Oliver St, turn left into main gate and park. Leader: Joy Wheeler, 410-825-1204.

 **Baltimore.** Evening walks at Fort McHenry. Cancelled in rain, fog, etc. See Sept 5 listing for directions, but meet 6 PM and park on Wallace St near main gate. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Location, time, and subject TBD.


 **Montgomery.** Rock Creek Park, DC. One-third day. Migrant warblers, vireos, and sparrows. Meet 7 AM at Picnic Area 18 (on Ridge Rd, 1/2 mile below Nature Center). Reservations required. Call leader if unsure of directions. Leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

Thursday, September 13


MEETING. **Howard.** "An Holistic Approach to Bird Conservation in Peru," by *Beth Zang*. Hospitality and club bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Howard Co Rec and Parks, 7210 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia. Info: Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731.


MEETING. **Talbot.** *Dave Brinker*, MD DNR, will describe his work with Northern Saw-whet Owl banding and monitoring. 7 PM at William Hill Manor Auditorium, Easton. Info: Cathy Cooper, coopercw@goeaston.net.


Friday-Sunday, September 14-16


 **Anne Arundel.** Chincoteague, Kiptopeke, and Eastern Shore of VA NWR. Meet at 8 AM at the Bay 50 Shopping Center parking lot. Migrant landbirds, raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Bird and raptor banding will be taking place at Kiptopeke. Contact the coordinator by Sept 8 if you want to participate. Coordinator: Stephen Hult, 410-956-3392.


Saturday, September 15


 **FALL COUNT. Anne Arundel.** To participate, please contact Tom Bradford, 410-987-0674.

 **FALL COUNT. Baltimore.** We will tally all birds seen within the city and county during this calendar day. Birders of all levels of experience are welcome and urged to participate. To avoid duplication of counting, contact compiler Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or gt5s@bcpl.net, for assignment.


 **Baltimore.** Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. A continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. See Sept 5 listing for directions. Meet 8 AM in Visitor Center parking lot. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, etc). Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.


 **FALL COUNT. Caroline.** If you would like to participate, please contact Debby Bennett at 410-479-1343 or firefly5845@hotmail.com.


 **FALL COUNT. Carroll.** Call Bill Ellis at 443-520-8809 to verify your bird-counting area.


 **Cecil.** Turkey Point Migrants. Half day. Meet 7 AM at Turkey Point parking lot. From North East, take Rte 272 south about 11 miles. Leader: Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.


Trip Coordinator: Richard Donham, 610-932-0634 (h) or donhamr@zoominternet.net.

 **FALL COUNT. Frederick.** Mike Welch will coordinate our 8th county-wide fall census. Call Mike, 301-874-5828, to be placed with a team or assigned a territory. Tally Rally at the Welches' house.


 **FALL COUNT. Howard.** Info: Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361.


 **Montgomery.** Triadelphia Area. Half day. A morning of woodland birding along the Patuxent River watershed with an excellent chance for early fall migrants. Meet 7:15 AM at Ashton Village Center (near 7-11), intersection of Rtes 108 and 650. Reservations required. Leader: Mark England, 301-253-4139.

 **Patuxent.** Governor Bridge NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations are required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.

 **FALL COUNT. Washington.** Contact Doris Berger, 301-739-8907, to participate.

Sunday, September 16

 **FALL COUNT. Allegany/Garrett.** Chuck Hager will be the compiler for the 18th annual Fall Count. Contact Chuck at 301-689-5344 for area assignments. Tally to be held at Ray Kiddy's house at 7 PM, 13103 Quarry Ridge Rd. Call Ray at 301-729-1972 for directions. Bring a covered dish to share with the other participants.

 **Baltimore.** Chimney Swifts at Dusk, Druid Hill Park Conservatory (Greenhouse). Join the BBC SwiftWatch Team for "Swift Night Out" as Chimney Swifts pour into the Conservatory chimney. Swifts are counted and results nationwide are listed at www.chimneyswifts.org. Baltimore has some of the highest counts in the nation. Meet 7 PM

(come at 6:30 PM if the weather is cloudy or gray) at the Conservatory. Directions: The Conservatory is located at Auchentoroly Terr and Gwynns Falls Pkwy. From I-83, exit at 28th St. Follow signs to "Druid Park Lake Dr" (go along edge of the park). Turn right at 5th traffic light, Gwynns Falls Pkwy. You will see the Conservatory (a historic Victorian glass greenhouse) on your right. Leaders: Carol Schreter, 410-664-5151, and Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

H Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at Mansion's front porch on Sunday mornings for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. For directions see Sept 2. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

H Harford. Winters Run Road (SW Harford County). Join Lynn Davis and Dave Larkin on this leisurely walk along a quiet and scenic county road. True to its namesake, this road meanders along the cool clear waters of Winters Run. Great time to catch migrant songbirds with excellent opportunities for viewing them all along the way. Meet 7 AM at the MD 24 P&R just 1/2 mile south of I-95. Contact Lynn at 410-569-0504, for info.

FALL COUNT. **Patuxent.** Prince George's Co. Contact Dave Mozurkewich for details at 301-459-3375.

H Talbot. Delaware Bay for shorebirds, waders, and migrant passerines. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM. Bring lunch and insecticide. Leader, Charles Hopkins, 410-763-8742.

Tuesday, September 18

H Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Sept 4 for details. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or gt5s@bcpl.net.

H Baltimore. Rain date for Chimney Swifts at Dusk, Druid Hill Park Conservatory (Greenhouse). See Sept 16 listing.

H Indicates Field Trip

Wednesday, September 19

H Baltimore. Evening walks at Fort McHenry. Cancelled in rain, fog, etc. See Sept 5 listing for directions except meet 6 PM and park on Wallace St near main gate. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

MEETING. **Montgomery.** "Birders, Conservation, and Refuges—Making Better Connections." *Paul Baicich*, National Wildlife Refuge Association, will discuss conservation trends in the 20th and early 21st centuries, with special reference to federal wildlife refuges. 7:30 PM. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac.

Thursday, September 20

MEETING. **Caroline.** "Populations and Conservation of Wintering Waterbirds in Chesapeake Bay and Offshore Coastal Waters" presented by *Doug Forsell*. 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton. Info: Debby Bennett, 410-479-1343 or firefly5845@hotmail.com.

H Howard. Weekday Walk at Centennial Park. 2-3 hours. Easy walking on paved path around the lake. Migrants of many species will be moving through. Great trip for beginners. Meet 8 AM at west end lot. Leader: Joe Byrnes, 410-730-5329. Facilities available.

Friday, September 21

H Patuxent. Jug Bay Boat Trip. Look for migrants, rails, and shorebirds during this boat trip along Jug Bay at low tide. For reservations, call Fred Fallon at 301-249-1518. Meet 6 PM at the Jug Bay boat launch (behind the Visitor Center). Note the evening departure time.

Saturday, September 22

H Baltimore. Hart-Miller Island for Shorebirds. Meet 6:45 AM sharp at boat dock. Eight-mile, 10-hour hike on level ground under open sky with no shelter or shade. One rest stop (bathrooms) halfway around the island. Wear a hat and long pants. Carry scope, drinks, lunch, sun screen, and insect repellent. Possible

rare gulls, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons. Reservations required. For reservations, directions, and info, contact Gene Scarpulla by Thur, Sept 20 at ejscarp@comcast.net or 410-388-0852, after 7 PM.

H Baltimore. Hampton National Historic Site. See description for Sept 8. Leader: Joy Wheeler, 410-825-1204.

H Cecil. Seasons at Fair Hill. Half day. Meet 7 AM Fair Hill Nature Center at covered bridge parking lot (parking fee). Enter Fair Hill off Rte 273 and follow signs to the nature center. Leader: Richard Donham, donhamr@zoominternet.net.

H Frederick. Gambrill SP. Barbara Gearhart will lead us on a quest for fall migrants in Gambrill SP. Walking may be uphill and vigorous depending on where the warblers are. Meet 8 AM at Gambrill SP. Please call Barbara, 301-473-9889, if you are coming.

H Harford. Falling Branch, Eden Mill Nature Center. Meet up with Dennis Kirkwood at EMNC to visit this fabled county site, put into the park system by the work of school kids and naturalists. The state's second-highest waterfall is only one of the attractions along this trail, which should afford looks at fall migrants and maybe even a late-calling amphibian or two. Arrive at the lower parking lot, by the picnic pavilion, at 7 AM to carpool to the smaller lot at Falling Branch. Contact Dennis at 410-692-5905, for more info.

H Howard. Henryton Road, Patapsco Valley SP. Half day. Join Ralph Cullison to walk along the Patapsco River looking for fall migrants. Mature woodlands provide excellent habitat for migrant thrushes. Plan for moderate walking and possible muddy areas. Meet 8 AM at bottom of Henryton Rd at the dead end. Leader: Ralph Cullison, 410-442-2181. No facilities.

MOS Calendar (continued from page 21)

Talbot. Chincoteague Island, VA for godwits, shorebirds, waterbirds, waders, and a good crab cake. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM. Bring lunch and insecticide. Leader: Terry Allen, 410-822-8132.

Sunday, September 23

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at Mansion's front porch on Sunday mornings for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. For directions see Sept 2. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Caroline. Bird-banding Observation in Chestertown. Jim Gruber, Bander. Meet 9 AM. Contact Danny Poet to register and get directions, 410-827-8651 or birder231@hotmail.com.

Harford. Eden Mill Nature Center. Meet up with Mark Johnson as he bands south-bound migrants. Get up-close and personal with a variety of species, with emphasis on the younger and harder to identify. Banding takes place at the Joe Vangrin Memorial Pavilion, with periodic walks to check the nets. Set-up starts at 7 AM with first net runs around 8 AM. Call Mark at 410-692-5978 with questions.

Howard. Western RP. Half day. Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Small pond may host shorebirds. Meet 8 AM at Carr's Mill Rd lot. Leader: Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361. Facilities available.

Montgomery. Violette's to Pennyfield Lock Bird Stalk. We will carpool to Pennyfield Lock and walk up to Violette's. This trip should net an interesting mix of late warblers, landbird migrants, and probably a few first-show winter visitors, as we scan the

skies and river for raptors and waterbirds. Meet 7 AM Violette's Lock parking lot, end of Violette's Lock Rd. Reservations required. Leader: Howard Youth, 301-915-0071 or howard.youth@starpower.net.

Talbot. Oxford Neck Area for waterbirds and migrant passerines. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leader, Les Coble, 410-820-6165. Breakfast host: Sue Ormsby.

Tuesday, September 25

Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Sept 4 for details. Leader: Ruth Culbertson, 410-825-1379.

MEETING. **Washington.** *Daphne Gemmill* will present "Banding Warblers in the Bahamas." Meeting starts 7:30 PM at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Call 301-797-8454, for more info.

Saturday, September 29

Anne Arundel. Cromwell Valley Park. Migrants and hawk-watching. Meet 7 AM at the Parole P&R. Contact Tom Bradford, 410-987-0674, for more info.

Baltimore. Hampton National Historic Site. See description for Sept 8. Leader: Keith Eric Costley, 443-985-6489 or oriolekec1@comcast.net.

Howard. Woodland Walk at Middle Patuxent EA. Half day. Moderate walking on wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Field edges and thickets provide sparrow habitat. Prepare for wet grass. Meet 7:30 AM at the Trotter Rd lot. Leader: Stan Arnold, 410-428-7567. No facilities.

Montgomery. Upper Watts Branch Park, Rockville. Half day. Migrant warblers, vireos, thrushes, and assorted woodland residents. Meet 8 AM at corner of Princeton Pl and Fordham St. Reservations required. Limit: 12. Leader: Paul O'Brien, 301-424-6491.

MOS BOARD MEETING. **MOS.** Hosted by Frederick Co Bird Club. Meeting starts 10:30 AM at the Urbana Library. Info: Janet Shields, janetbill@prodigy.net. Pre-meeting trip to Lilypons.

Sunday, September 30

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at Mansion's front porch on Sunday mornings for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. For directions see Sept 2. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Carroll and Howard. The Dickey Farm. Joint trip, half day. Moderate walking in woodlands and field edges of this private farm. Ponds provide chances for some waterbirds. Great habitat for warblers, sparrows, and vireos. Meet 7:30 AM at MD 32/I-70 P&R. Leaders: Dave and Maureen Harvey, 410-795-3117. No facilities.

Harford. Palmer SP. Join Russ Kovach to scout the under-appreciated trails of this park along upper Deer Creek. Forest, open clearings, and water areas will offer a mix of migrants. Meet at the Wawa on Rte 136 and Rte 1 at 7:30 AM. Contact Russ at 443-386-4787, for more info.

Montgomery. Woodstock Equestrian Park, Dickerson. Half day. Explore this little-known 825-acre park off MD 28 just south of Dickerson. We will hike some of the trails through woods and agricultural fields. Directions: take MD 28 north/west from Rockville. About 1 mile past Rte 109, turn right on dirt entrance way (look for Woodstock Equestrian Park sign). Follow road for 1/8 mile to parking area. Expect a few steep hills and some rough spots on trails due to horse tracks. Meet 7 AM. Limit: 10. Reservations required. Leader: Andy Martin, 301-294-4805, 301-529-2066 (cell) or apmartin2@comcast.net.

Talbot. Hope House for waterbirds, landbirds, migrants. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.

Leader, Les Roslund, 410-763-8169.
Breakfast hosts: Carolyn and Les Roslund.

Tuesday, October 2

Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Sept 4 for details. Leader: Dot Gustafson, 410-584-9509 or dotsg@bcpl.net.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evenings at Cromwell Valley. "Rhapsody in Blue—North American Waterbirds." *Middleton Evans* returns with a stunning collection of photos of birds from aquatic habitats across North America from his recently published book, *Rhapsody in Blue—A Celebration of North American Waterbirds*. Doors open at the Sherwood House at 7:30 PM for socializing and snacks; show starts about 7:45 or 8 PM. For directions to Cromwell Valley, see Sept 4.

Wednesday, October 3

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. See Sept 5 listing for directions. Meet 8 AM in Visitor Center parking lot. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, etc). Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Thursday, October 4

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Paul Baicich*, well-known birder and conservationist, will present a program entitled "Birds, Conservation, Refuges—Making Better Connections." 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

Washington. Cushwa Basin. Meet 7:15 AM at the Rte 65 P&R for a half-day trip along the C&O Canal. Contact Linda Field, 301-797-6189, to attend.

Saturday, October 6

Anne Arundel. Hawk Mountain, PA. All-day trip to this famous hawk-watching site. Meet 5 AM at Severna Park P&R. Bring lunch. Breakfast on the way. Leader: Larry Zoller, 410-987-9354.

Baltimore. Hampton National Historic Site. See Sept 8 for details. Leader: Gail Frantz, 410-833-7135 or guineabird@aol.com.

Howard. West Friendship Park. Moderate walking along field edges and through stream valleys. Small ponds may have some surprises. Expect wet areas. Meet 8 AM at shopping center just west of Rtes 32 and 144. Will carpool to nearby park. Leaders: Joe Byrnes and Jeff Culler, 410-730-5329. No facilities.

Montgomery. Little Bennett RP. Half day. Everyone welcome, especially new birders. Late warblers and vireos, early sparrows, and some raptors possible. Contact leader for reservations, time, and place to meet. Leader: Gemma Radko, 301-514-2894.

Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.

Sunday, October 7

Anne Arundel and Howard. Sparrows by Sight and Sound. Half day. Walk will start at Meadowbrook to search for sparrows, then on to Mt. Pleasant Farm to round out the morning. Walking will be moderate on paved paths and mown grass areas. Trip will emphasize the fine points of sparrow ID on the wing and by sound. Anne Arundel: Meet 7 AM at the Parole P&R; for info contact Tom Bradford, 410-987-0674. Howard: Meet 7:30 AM at Meadowbrook Park. Facilities available. Leader: Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361.

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at Mansion's front porch on Sunday mornings for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. For directions see Sept 2. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Harford. Susquehanna SP. A perennial club favorite, this trip sends off the last of the fall migrants and welcomes the arrival of some "cold weather" residents. Join Les Eastman to see thousands of Tree Swallows amassed over the river on their south-bound journey and search the forest for Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes, Blue-headed Vireo, Cape May Warbler, creepers, and kinglets. Meet 8 AM at the Rock Run Mill. Contact Les at 410-734-6969, for more info.

Talbot. Tilghman Island for Hawk-watching. Meet Les Coble at St. Michaels Village Shopping Center at 7 AM to bird Tilghman Is. prior to hawk-watching. Or meet Andrew Bullen at Black Walnut Pt. at 9 AM. Bring lunch, lawn chairs, bird/hawk books to share during downtime. Leader: Andrew Bullen, 410-763-8156.

Monday, October 8

Baltimore. Hart-Miller Island. Meet 8 AM. Car-pooling necessary. Join us for a half-day bus trip around Hart-Miller. Possible rare gulls, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons. Scope helpful. Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, drinks, and snacks. Optional lunch with group at local restaurant following return to land. Reservations required. For reservation, directions, and other info, contact coordinator Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

Harford. Waggoner's Gap, PA. Fantastic locale near Carlisle, PA for close views of migrating raptors and beautiful overlooks of fall foliage. While all eastern raptors (including Merlin and Northern Goshawk) are possible, this site has a reputation for being the leading watch on the East Coast for Golden Eagles. Stationary watch, three-quarters day trip; bring lunch. Meet leader Mark Johnson at 7:30 AM at the MD 152/MD 147 P&R. Contact Mark at 410-692-5978, for more info.

MOS Calendar (continued from page 23)**Tuesday, October 9**

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** Speaker, location, and topic TBA. 7 PM
Allegany Co Main Library, 31
Washington St, Cumberland, 301-
777-1200. Located across the street
from the Board of Ed Bldg.

H Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Sept 4 for details. Leader: Matilda Weiss, 410-337-2732.

MEETING. **Kent.** Speaker TBA. 7:30 PM. Wesley Hall, Heron Point, E Campus Ave, Chestertown.
For info, contact Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** "The Plight of the Bumblebee" by *Sam Droege*. 7:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.

Wednesday, October 10

MEETING. **Carroll.** Speaker TBA. 7:30 PM at Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Info: Karen Mobley, karenm657@comcast.net.

Thursday, October 11

MEETING. **Howard.** "Gardening for Backyard Biodiversity," by *Craig Tufts*, Chief Naturalist for the National Wildlife Federation. Hospitality and club bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Howard Co Rec and Parks, 7210 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia. Info: Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731.

MEETING. **Talbot.** *David Curson*, Ph.D., Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon MD-DC, will talk about Important Bird Areas (IBA), the internationally recognized designation of highly protected natural areas. He'll show pictures of some of the Eastern Shore areas. Talbot Club birders have helped determine whether local sites are qualified to be IBAs. 7 PM at William Hill Manor Auditorium, Easton. Info: Cathy Cooper, coopercw@goeaston.net.

Saturday, October 13

H Allegany/Garrett. Town Hill. Meet Ray Kiddy to watch for migrating

hawks at a time of year when there is good hawk diversity (with favorable weather conditions). Meet 7:30 AM at the Mason's Barn P&R, off I-68, Exit 46. Bring lunch and a drink. Call Ray at 301-729-1972, for info.

H Baltimore. Hampton National Historic Site. See Sept 8 for details. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

H Baltimore. Northampton Furnace Trail. Level walk through mixed woods and brushy habitats to edge of Loch Raven Reservoir. Good chance for Winter Wrens, lingering robins, and waterfowl. Meet 8 AM at Dulaney Valley Rd and Chapelwood Ln, 2 miles north of I-695, Exit 27. Leader: Joy Wheeler, 410-825-1204.

H Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants and Hawk Watch. Half day. Meet 7 AM at Turkey Point parking lot. From North East, take Rte 272 south about 11 miles. Leader: Leslie Fisher, gonbrdn@aol.net. Trip Coordinator: Richard Donham, 610-9320634 (h) or donhamr@zoominternet.net.

H Frederick. Lilypons. Mike Welch will lead a trip to this popular local birding spot. We'll look for Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and other fall migrants. Meet 7:30 AM at Lilypons bridge. Please call Mike at 301-874-5828 to let him know you are coming.

H Harford. Swan Harbor. Spend a little morning time watching for migrants in the trees and in the marsh and waters at this bird-favorite location. Benefit from the expertise of resident John Gallo and birder Tom Gibson as they lead a walk around the ponds and through the fields searching wires, weeds, and open spaces for anything from waterfowl to warblers to eagles. Meet at the parking lot at end of lane on left at 7:30 AM. Contact John at 410-459-0548, for more info.

H Montgomery. Fall in Frederick County. MOS President Marcia Balestri will lead a half-day trip to Lilypons and Gambrill SP seeking fall migrants and resident goodies. We will

look for American Bittern, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, migrating hawks, and passerines. Meet 7:30 AM at the Lilypons bridge. Bring lunch. Reservations required. Leader: Marcia Balestri, 301-473-5098 or mebalestri@comcast.net

Sunday, October 14

BIG SIT. Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. Come anytime from dawn to dusk to take part in this nationwide event. Call George Thomas at 410-647-5082, for directions and info.

H Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at Mansion's front porch on Sunday mornings for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. For directions see Sept 2. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

H Howard. Sparrow Big Day. All day. Search wetlands and dry fields in this intensive search for as many sparrows as possible. Going for 12 species! Expect difficult walking for most of the day. Knee boots a must. Limit: 12. Call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361 to sign up and get info. Facilities at some spots.

BIG SIT. Montgomery. Join the Sitting Ducks at Black Hill RP starting at dawn and continuing until ? Come for the day or just a few hours. Meet at the dike across the road from the park boat ramp. Leader: Rick Sussman, warblerick@aol.com. Note: this year's Big Sit will serve as an occasion to honor long-time MBC trip leader, board member, and originator of the Sitting Ducks, Rick Sussman, who has moved out of the county. Sitting Ducks can contribute to the festivities by bringing along light refreshments. For more info, contact Linda Friedland, linnet1@verizon.net or 301-983-2136 (before 9 PM).

BIG SIT. Patuxent. This annual Big Sit event takes advantage of the variety of habitats and the large number of flyover birds at Schoolhouse Pond while combining competitive birding with complete inactivity. Meet 7 AM at the observation platform at the

rear of Schoolhouse Pond. Stop by for a few hours or the whole day. Call Fred Shaffer for add'l details at 410-721-1744.

H Talbot. Trappe Waterfront. Waterfowl and late migrants. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leader: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

Tuesday, October 16

H Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Sept 4 for details. Leader: Paul Noell, 410-243-2652 or myconut@verizon.net.

Wednesday, October 17

H Howard. David Force Park. 2 hours. Easy walking through the wooded trails and fields of the Howard Co Open Space. Streams and pond provide habitat for numerous bird species. Probable Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Ducks, and Fox Sparrows. Meet 8 AM at the sign on Pebble Beach Dr. Leader: Michele Wright, 410-465-6057.

H Montgomery. Blue Mash Nature Trail: Sparrows 101. Blue Mash is hoppin' with "little brown jobs," making it a good place to work on the basics of sparrow ID. This trip is primarily for beginners but all are welcome. Half day. For reservations, time, and directions, contact Lydia Schindler, 301-977-5252 or lydiaschindler@verizon.net

MEETING. **Montgomery.** "Brothers Birdwatching in Western Asia: The Search for Endemics in Yemen and Kazakhstan" by *Hank Kaestner*. In 33 years with McCormick & Company, Hank has traveled the world buying spices and seeing birds. Hank will talk about his recent birding trips to Yemen and Kazakhstan, along with smaller trips to Madagascar and India. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac.

Thursday, October 18

MEETING. **Caroline.** *Bob Balestri*: "Birds of Australia and New Zealand." 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton. Info: Debby Bennett at 410-479-1343 or firefly5845@hotmail.com.

Saturday, October 20

H Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. A continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. See Sept 5 listing for directions. Meet 8 AM in Visitor Center parking lot. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, etc). Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

H Baltimore. Hampton National Historic Site. See Sept 8 for details. Leader: Keith Eric Costley, 443-985-6489 or oriolekec@comcast.net.

H Harford. Rocks SP. Double trouble with Dave Webb and Randy Robertson, or double luck, if you like. These two long-time birders will do their best to draw some good migrants and early winter birds from the trees. Meet at Chrome Hill Rd lot at 7:30 AM. Contact Dave at 410-939-3537, for more info.

H Howard. Hawk Watch at Meadowbrook. All day. Join raptor enthusiast Kurt Schwarz to sit and watch the hawks fly. Bring a chair and sustenance for however long you plan to stay. Kurt will provide tips on separating species in flight. The park provides paved path for walking. Ponds and great sparrow habitat should provide other birding opportunities. Meet 9:30 AM at hawk watch site on hilltop. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643. Facilities available.

H Patuxent. Governor Bridge NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations are required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.

H Washington. Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch, PA. Meet 8 AM at the Rte 65 P&R for a full-day trip to observe raptor migration. Leader: Shirley Ford, 301-241-3020.

Sunday, October 21

H Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at Mansion's

front porch on Sunday mornings for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. For directions see Sept 2. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

H Harford. Eden Mill Nature Center. Meet up with Mark Johnson and Les Eastman as they band southbound migrants, particularly sparrows: Swamp, Field, White-crowned, and Lincoln's possible. Banding takes place at the Joe Vangrin Memorial Pavilion with periodic walks to check the nets. Come ready to walk and check those nets from 8 AM to noon. Contact Mark at 410-692-5978, for more info.

H Howard. University of Maryland Farm. Moderate to difficult walking though the fields and wetlands of this private property. Sparrows are the target species but wetlands birds are likely. Limit: 12. Call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361 to sign up and get info. No facilities.

H Talbot. Jean Ellen duPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary, Bozman. Expect Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Meadowlark, Bald Eagle, and field and waterbirds. Depart St. Michaels Village shopping center at 7 AM. Leader: Les Roslund, 410-763-8169.

Tuesday, October 23

H Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Sept 4 for details. Leader: Kevin Graff, whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com or 410-557-2456.

MEETING AND POT LUCK. **Washington.** Relax with friends over a leisurely dinner starting 6:15 PM at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Bring a dish to share along with your own drink, plate, and utensils. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM when *Walter Ellison* will share results of the 2002-2006 MD/DC Atlas Project. Call 301-797-8454, for directions.

Wednesday, October 24

H Montgomery. Jean Ellen DuPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary, Talbot County. We'll spend the morning with

H Indicates Field Trip

MOS Calendar (continued from page 25)

Les Roslund birding the trails of this beautiful 950-acre peninsula bordered by three creeks. Lunch at St. Michaels before heading home. Reservations required. Limit: 8. Leader: Les Roslund, 410-763-8169 or Lroslund@bluecrab.org. For starting time, directions, and reservations, contact Linda Friedland, 301-983-2136 before 9 PM.

Saturday, October 27

H **Frederick.** Fall at Audrey Carroll. David Smith will lead a trip to search for those pesky little brown jobs (sparrows) and other migrants. Meet 7:30 AM at the Rte 75 P&R, just south of I-70. Call David, 410-549-7082, for info.

H **Harford.** Owl Prowl. Dave Ziolkowski will once again lead those ready to roam the dark woods in search of the birds of night. Eastern Screech, Barred, and Great-horned Owls possible—no guarantees though. Come prepared with binoculars, small flashlight, and your most mouse-colored clothing to stack the deck! Meet at C. Milton Wright HS parking lot at 6:15 PM. Contact Dave at 443-299-8453, for more details.

H **Howard.** Rockburn Branch Park. Half day. Moderate walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park looking for migrants. Paths may be muddy. Meet 8 AM in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse. Leaders: Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731. Facilities available.

H **Patuxent.** Cape Henlopen SP, DE. Hawk and Sea Watch. Meet at the Bowie P&R. Call Fred Fallon at 301-249-1518 for add'l info and to make reservations.

Sunday, October 28

H **Anne Arundel.** Dyke Marsh and Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA. Half day. Early wintering land-birds and possibly waterfowl. Meet at Parole P&R at 7:30 AM. Leader is Juanita Tate, 410-266-6043.

H Indicates Field Trip

H **Baltimore.** Cromwell Valley Park. Meet 8 AM. Explore a diverse habitat that includes stream, woods, and fields. Expect to see a variety of resident and migrant birds. See Sept 1 for directions. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

H **Howard.** Mt. Pleasant Farm. 1-2 hours. Easy walking through the fields of the farm. Tree lines, hedgerows, and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Prime time for sparrows. Great opportunity for flyovers. Meet 8 AM at parking lot. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643. Facilities available.

H **Talbot.** Cooke's Hope Development. When we last visited Cooke's Hope, we found a surprisingly wide variety of birds including Solitary Vireo and Purple Finch. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leader: Marge Steffens, 410-822-1966. Breakfast hosts: Marge and George Steffens.

Wednesday, October 31

H **Harford.** Perryville Community Park. Scare yourself into celebrating All Soul's Day with Tom Congersky and the birds! This small but valuable park will afford water views that should be filled with migrating waterfowl, as well as forested areas that might be temporary homes for woodpeckers. Meet at the gates at 7 AM. Call Tom at 410-658-4137, for more info.

Thursday, November 1

MEETING. **Frederick.** Local hawk banded *Tom Humphrey* will describe his hawk-banding activities, particularly how he catches so many Cooper's Hawks. 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

Friday, November 2

DINNER MEETING. **Harford.** "Maryland's Himalayas: How Habitats Are Influenced by the Geology of an Area." Speaker: *Dennis Coskren*. Dinner 6:15 PM, meeting 7:15 PM at the Churchville Presbyterian Church. Contact Russ Kovach at 443-386-4787, for add'l info.

Saturday-Sunday, November 3-4

H **Frederick.** Town Hill Overnight. We will stay at a local B&B on Sat and visit the famous (in Maryland, anyway) Town Hill hawk watch. This time of year is good for Northern Goshawks and Golden Eagles. For info and reservations, contact David Smith, 410-549-7082.

Saturday, November 3

ANNUAL BANQUET. **Allegany/Garrett.** Keynote Speakers: *Dr. Gwenda Brewer and George Jett*. "Birding in Colombia: It Is as Easy as ABC." The program will feature the natural history Gwen and George encountered on a 3-week trip to Columbia in Feb 2007. Banquet starts 5:30 PM at the Frostburg United Methodist Church Social Hall, 48 Main St, Frostburg. Please call Charlotte Folk, 301-689-6587 to make reservations. Call Charlotte or Barbara Gaffney, 301-895-4646, for more info. Cost for the dinner is \$13 (students \$10), which includes tax and gratuities. Please send payment to Charlotte Folk at 179 Mt. Pleasant St, Frostburg, MD 21532.

H **Carroll.** Piney Run Park. Moderate walking around Piney Run Lake for early waterfowl, in mixed forest and along open field edge for late migrants and winter residents. Meet 8 AM outside the gate to Piney Run Park on Martz Rd. Call Bill Ellis at 443-520-8809, for more info.

H **Cecil.** Avalon Sea Watch. Full day. Meet 7 AM Big Elk Mall, Elkton at Dunkin' Donuts parking lot area. Leader: Richard Donham, donhamr@zoominternet.net.

H **Harford.** Bombay Hook NWR, DE. For all those early birds who want to catch the migrant-lined shores, join Dave Larkin and Rick Cheicante for a trip to this bird-happy spot. The muddy impoundments, fresh and saltwater marshes, and wave-washed beaches afford great numbers and good views of shore and water birds. Bring lunch and meet 7 AM at the MD 155/I-95 P&R. Contact Rick at 410-803-2712.

H Howard. Alpha Ridge Park and Landfill. Moderate to difficult walking through the fields looking for lingering sparrows and early winter arrivals. The landfill has the best possibility of hosting rarities. Possibility of walking through tall wet grasses; boots recommended. Meet 8 AM at Alpha Ridge Park. Leader Ralph Cullison, 410-442-2181. Facilities at the park.

H Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.

Sunday, November 4

H Howard. Centennial Park. 2-3 hours. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl and lingering migrants likely. Meet 8 AM at west end parking lot (don't forget Daylight Saving). Leader: Joe Byrnes, 410-730-5329. Facilities available.

H Talbot. Ferry Neck area for landbirds, waterbirds, and waterfowl. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leaders: Les Coble, 410-820-6165, and Harry Armistead. Breakfast hosts: Priscilla and Paul Thut.

Tuesday, November 6

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evenings at Cromwell Valley. *Gail Mackiernan* will present "Birding in the Land of the Thunder Dragon—Bhutan." The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is one of the world's premier birding destinations, both for its variety of superb species and its enlightened environmental policies, which have protected the extensive forests and their wildlife. Open to tourism only since 1979, Bhutan welcomes birders and other lovers of natural beauty. Gail, her husband, and three friends traveled to Bhutan in 2005, and Gail will share their birding experiences in slides and video. Doors open at the Sherwood House at 7:30 PM for socializing and snacks, show

starts about 7:45 or 8 PM. For directions to Cromwell Valley, see Sept 4.

Wednesday, November 7

H Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. See Sept 5 listing for directions. Meet 8 AM in Visitor Center parking lot. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, etc). Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** Speaker TBA. 7:30 PM at Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Info: Karen Mobley, karenm657@comcast.net.

Thursday, November 8

MEETING. **Talbot.** *Kathy O'Malley* will describe the endangered Whooping Crane captive breeding program at Patuxent Research Refuge. 7 PM at William Hill Manor Auditorium, Easton. Info: Cathy Cooper, coopercw@goeaston.net.

H Washington. Greenbrier SP. Meet 7:30 AM at the Rte 66 P&R for a local half-day trip in search of migrants and waterfowl. Leader: Judy Lilga, 301-432-2276.

Saturday, November 10

H Anne Arundel. Cape Henlopen SP and Assawoman WA, DE. A day of birding in several DE spots. Meet 7 AM at the Bay 50 Shopping Center parking lot. Contact for the trip is Bobbi Reichwein, 410-798-5940.

H Baltimore. Loch Raven. Waterbirds and landbirds. Possible Bald Eagle, Eastern Bluebird, and Common Loon. Scopes useful. Two-mile level walk. Meet 8 AM. Directions: from I-695, take Exit 27/ Dulaney Valley Rd north, go several miles, cross large bridge over reservoir, and bear right immediately. Continue to first left, Stone Hill Rd. Go about 100 yards, turn around, and then park on your right. All cars need to park on the same side of the road. Leader: Peter Lev, 410-823-2962 or plev@comcast.net.

H Frederick. Saw-whet Owl Banding. This will be a night-time visit to the banding station on Lambs Knoll to watch Steve Huy catch and band migrating Saw-whet Owls. This is a reservations-only trip, limited to 15. Please call Kathy Calvert, 301-698-1298 to reserve your spot and learn the meeting place and time.

H Harford. Eden Mill Nature Center. Enjoy the northwestern part of this county with leaders Jean Wheeler and Carol Flora as they scout the trails of this old mill property. Early winter birds and late migrating hawks are possible. Meet at the lower parking lot by the picnic pavilion at 7 AM. Call Carol at 410-879-2712, for more info.

H Howard. Howard Waterfowl Search. 8 AM to 2 PM. Plan to visit the Columbia lakes and search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons, and other waterfowl. Easy walking. Plan to car-pool. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available. Meet 8 AM at Broken Land Pkwy parking lot at Lake Elkhorn. Leader: Stan Arnold, 410-428-7567.

Sunday, November 11

H Howard. Centennial Park. See Nov 4 listing. Leaders: Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731. Facilities available.

H Montgomery. Blue Mash Nature Trail. Half day. Relatively new and surprisingly birdy site near Olney. Meet at 7:30 AM at Zion Rd parking lot. Call leader for directions and reservations. Limit: 10. Leader: Ed Patten, 301-948-5648 or epatten986@comcast.net.

H Talbot. Wye Island for waterfowl, field birds, and waterbirds. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM or meet at Wye Island bridge at 7:30 AM. Leader: Danny Poet, 410-827-8651. Breakfast hosts: Margaret and Erney Maher.

BOOK REVIEW

Chimney Swifts: America's Mysterious Birds above the Fireplace, by Paul and Georgean Kyle • Texas A&M University Press, 2005.

152 pages, 41 photographs, 28 line drawings. \$16.95 (paperback)



In the "Acknowledgements" section of this splendid book, the authors write, "We have learned that one or two individuals can make at least a small difference in the conservation of a species." Since their introduction to Chimney Swifts in 1983, the Kyles have written two books and a paper on the natural history, conservation, and rehabilitation of Chimney Swifts, they have started a movement across North America to help

save the species, and they have turned over their own 8-acre property in the Texas Hill County to the Travis Audubon Society as a sanctuary and a place of learning about the remarkable birds to which they have dedicated their lives.

While there are more than 80 species of swift throughout the world, only four are commonly found in North America: White-throated Swift, Black Swift, and Vaux's Swift, as well as Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), the most common species east of the Rocky Mountains. Though familiar to most birders, especially here in Maryland where peak fall migrations can reach impressive proportions (see page 16), Chimney Swifts have presented something of a challenge to researchers (hence the "mysterious" of the book's title). However, with more than 20 years of research and through the use of specialized towers and video technology, the Kyles, project directors of the Driftwood Wildlife Association's North American Chimney Swift Nest Site Research project, have opened a window—literally and figuratively—into the lives of these unique birds.

In addition to fully exploring all aspects of Chimney Swift natural history, this book offers guidance on the creation of new "habitat" in the form of man-made swift towers, which today can be found at nature centers, schools, parks, and home sites throughout the country. Over the years the Kyles have built 15 swift towers at their home, Chaetura Canyon. There they conduct workshops where people can learn more about swifts and the threats they face, and can observe nesting pairs through small windows into their private worlds. Clearly, through their writing, research and teaching, these two dedicated individuals have made more than a small difference in the conservation of this charismatic species.

Chimney Swifts is a book that deserves a place in every birder's library, for the amazing and little-known facts related to the social lives and long migrations of Chimney Swifts (from North America to the Amazon basin in Peru, Chile, and Brazil), for the inspirational story of the Kyles' mission to save the species, and not least because of the fascination, beauty, and charm of the birds themselves. The fact that swift populations have declined by more than 55 percent in the last 30 years underscores the importance of the book, which is a delight to read. Buy copies for yourself and all your friends, especially for those non-birders—and industrialists—who may happen to own a chimney!

For more information on the Kyles' work with Chimney Swifts and a look at their excellent photography, see <http://chimneyswifts.org/>.

—Mary O'Neill
Howard County Bird Club

POSTMASTER: TIME-DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE EXPEDITE!

LAST CALL

...for **Fall Count Data**, deadline October 7.
Contact Chuck Stirrat, 410-531-2417.

... MARCHES, ON DISPLAY

The handsome photographs of William Burt, author of *Marshes: The Disappearing Edens* (including his favorite, Elliott Island in Dorchester Co), *Shadowbirds*, and *Rare and Elusive Birds of North America*, are on display at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels in Talbot Co through December.

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